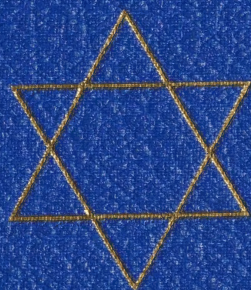
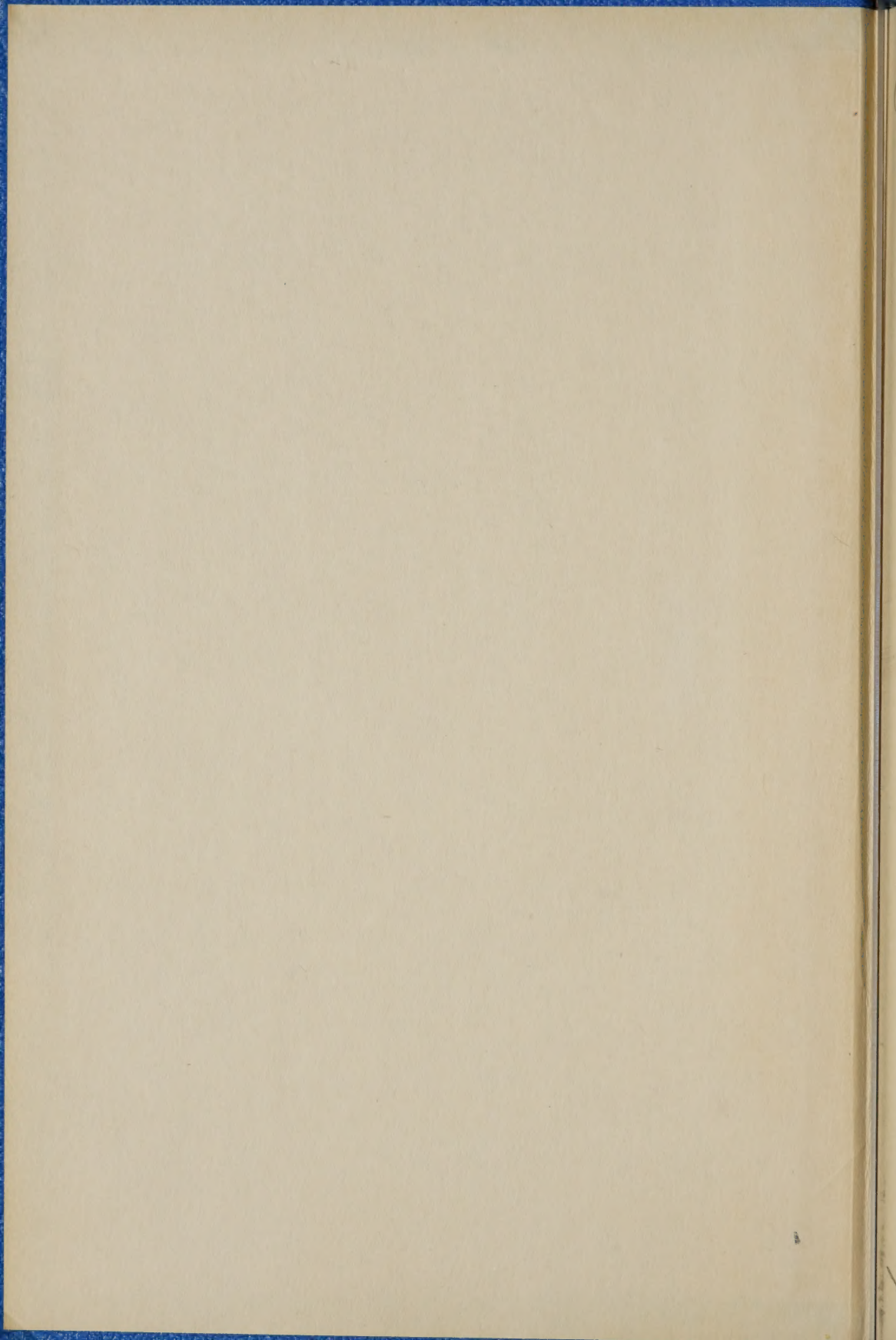


HISTORY
OF THE
BECKLEY JEWISH
COMMUNITY



CONGREGATION BETH EL
THE BECKLEY HEBREW ASSOCIATION
BECKLEY, WEST VIRGINIA



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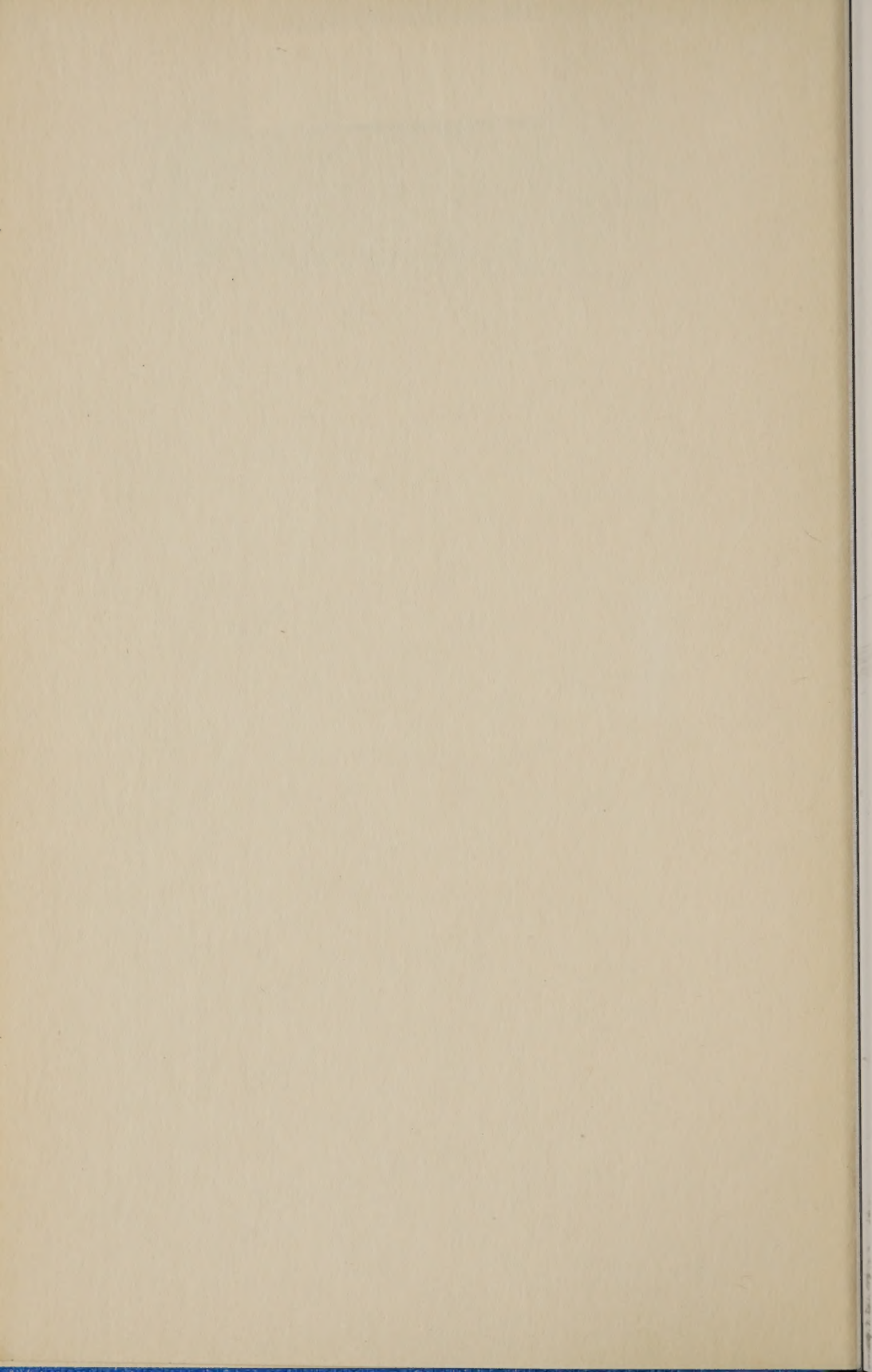
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History of the Beckley Jewish Community

(Beckley, West Virginia)

and of Congregation Beth El (The Beckley Hebrew Association)

(including Raleigh and Fayette Counties, West Virginia)

(1895 to 1955)



by Abraham I. Shinedling and Manuel Pickus

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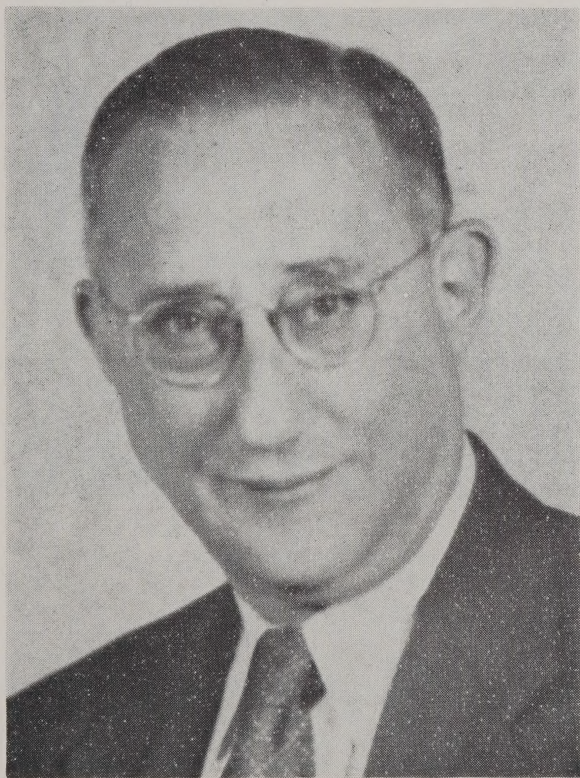
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Dedication Page

It is a great honor and privilege to be afforded the opportunity of writing this dedication page of the history of the Jews in Beckley.

This book is being dedicated to Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling, and I can think of no individual who has done more for the Beckley Community than the co-author of this book: Rabbi Shinedling. In the short space of time he has been here, he has unselfishly devoted all his time and energy to trying to build a stronger and more united congregation. He and his wonderful wife have left no stone unturned in order to accomplish this purpose. No one has worked harder with the Youth of Beckley; no one has been as unselfish in his efforts to teach the Hebrew language, and Jewish religion and history, to youngsters; no Rabbi that we have ever had has accomplished so much—and so we of the Beckley Jewish Community dedicate this book to:

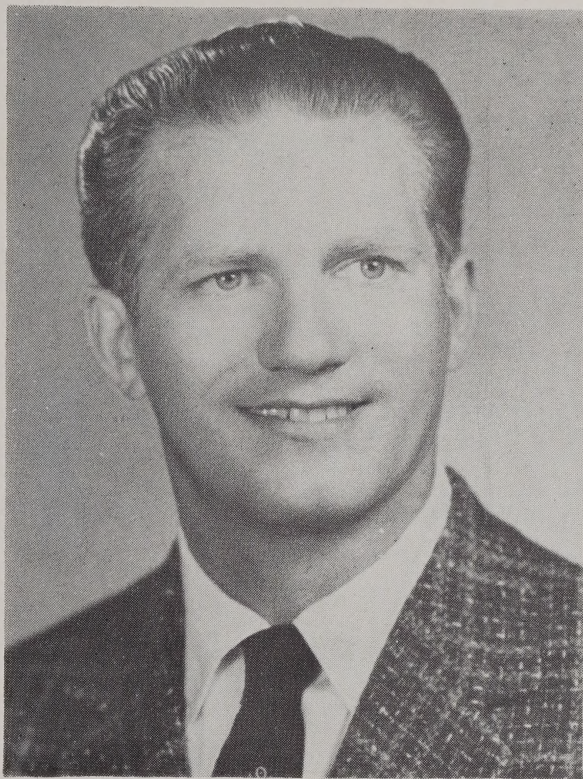
RABBI ABRAHAM I. SHINEDLING



Isadore R. Wein,
Chairman of the Board, Temple Beth El

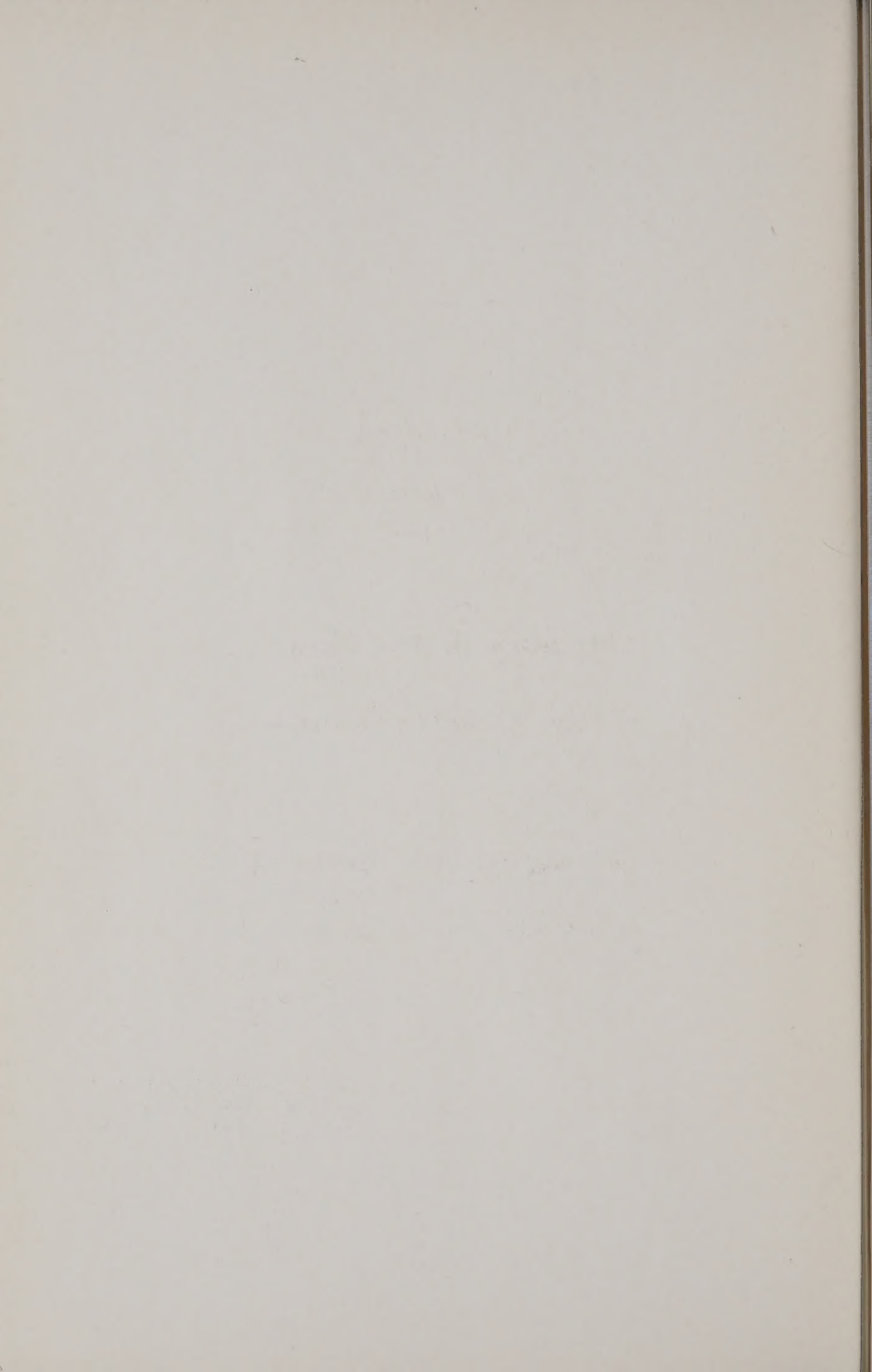
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This Volume Is Dedicated also to



ISADORE R. WEIN

in humble recognition of the untiring work and the invaluable aid which he has contributed to the Temple Beth El and to the entire Jewish community of Beckley, W. Va., during the past fifteen years (1940-1955).



Dedicated

ALSO TO THE

**Memory or the Honor
of the Charter Members**

of

Congregation Beth El

(The Beckley Hebrew Association)

1935

1936

TEMPLE



BETH-EL

CHARTER MEMBERS

NAT BERMAN

BEN LEWIS

L. PICUS

DAVE FRIED

ED. HARWIT

J. SILVERBERG

N. PICUS

J. FINK

BEN HARRIS

J. KEISERMAN

BEN. MYER

TOMMY

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SAM ABRAMS

D. ARNSTEIN

HARRY ABEL

SAM KRUG

J. L. HELLER

ABE SACKS

ABE KORN

ED GILBERT

FINK

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PREFACE

Preface I. By Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling

The impulse and genesis for the compilation and writing of this community and congregational history came early in the year 1953, when my rabbinical colleague, Rabbi Martin M. Weitz, the scholarly rabbi of Temple Beth Israel, of Atlantic City, N. J., who was at that time the chairman of a committee of the Central Conference of American Rabbis specially appointed to secure materials and articles on the histories of the various states and Jewish communities of the United States for presentation at a pre-session of the assembly of the Central Conference of American Rabbis at Estes Park, Colorado, in June, 1953, requested me to prepare a not-too-long article on the history of the Jews and of the Jewish communities of West Virginia. This was, of course, in connection with the forthcoming (1954-1955) countrywide celebration of the Tercentenary of the settlement of Jews (in September, 1654, at New Amsterdam) in what is now the United States of America.

The above assignment was not so easy as it would appear, but after labors of fully half a year, I prepared this brief sketch, utilizing, to be sure, all the previously published materials and data on the subject; and also on the basis of new materials and data on the various Jewish congregations and communities of West Virginia which were furnished to me by several of the few rabbis and of the Jewish leaders of some of the congregations and communities of this state; as well as on the basis of my own notes, observations, and findings compiled after eight years of service as a rabbi spent in two communities of West Virginia (1947-1955). One copy of the finished article on the Jews and Jewry of West Virginia was sent to Rabbi Weitz for use in connection with the Tercentenary; the other was deposited in the vaults of the American Jewish Archives, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In the several months which elapsed between June, 1953, and September, 1953, as I had done in the previous six months, I continued to gather data and facts on the history of the Jews of Beckley and of the State of West Virginia, for the purpose of amplifying my rather skimpy and by-no-means complete history of the Jews of this State (about 15 double-space typescript pages). Thus, for example, I secured from my old-young friend and colleague, Rabbi Theodore S. Levy, of Congregation Oheb Shalom, in Huntington, W. Va., a great deal of additional material on the history of the Huntington, W. Va., Jewish community and congregation; Rabbi Theodore S. Levy is himself a student of Jewish history, and deeply interested therein; from him I secured what I needed most: data on the Huntington community after the year 1916. From my old friend and devoted co-worker in B'nai B'rith in West Virginia, Lawrence M. Brile, of Fairmont, I secured some sorely needed, added data on the history of the Jewish community of Fairmont. Who knows? Perhaps in the years to come, I shall be able to publish as a monograph volume my article or essay on the *History of the Jews of West Virginia*, above referred to.

There is still a great amount of material which has to be secured and incorporated in my article; in particular, the histories of the following Jewish communities are rather tenuous and incomplete: Bluefield, Clarksburg, Logan, Morgantown, Parkersburg, Welch, and Williamson. In addition, some data ought to be collected and included on smaller Jewish communities or groups in towns, villages, and hamlets, such as: Charles Town, Elkins, Grafton, Iaeger, Keystone, Kimball, Martinsburg, Montgomery, Northfork, Princeton, Richwood, and War. This is one of my future goals.

At about the above-mentioned time, as I began to collect quite a considerable amount of data, materials, and facts about the Jews in Beckley and vicinity (Mount Hope and Oak Hill, in West Virginia), I began to toy with the newly hatched idea of writing a complete history of the Jewish community in and near Beckley, in Raleigh County and part of Fayette County, West Virginia. This had never before been done, especially since the genesis of our local congregation in Beckley was so recent, because it goes back as a congregation, as an organized congregation, only to about the year 1935. To my knowledge, also, no history of any local Jewish community anywhere in the State of West Virginia had ever been written, even though there are three large-sized Jewish communities in this State with considerable history back of them, i. e., Wheeling, Charleston, and Huntington. Of course, there was the "History of B'nai Jacob Synagogue," in Charleston, W. Va., written in 1950 and published then in booklet form, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the founding of that congregation (Conservative) in 1890, and on the occasion, also, of the dedication of the new synagogue of that congregation, in April, 1950, at the corner of Virginia and Elizabeth Sts., in Charleston. But there existed, so far as I knew, no history of any Jewish **community** in any of the cities of West Virginia where Jews live and labor. So I set to work, and resumed my poring through the congregational records, with the aid of our chairman of the Board, Isadore R. Wein, and with the aid of persons who were very helpful to me through their submitting to personal interviews and to my questionings.

At about this same time, a young member of our congregation in Beckley, by the name of Manuel Pickus, the son of James Pickus, the latter an old Beckley Jewish settler, conceived, independently, of a plan to compile and write a sketch of the history of the Beckley Jewish community. He began collecting and gathering data and material from local newspaper reports of incidents and events in the life of the Beckley Jewish community, and also from the sparse and scanty congregational and other records and data which he found available, hidden in files, cabinets, and private safes. Noting the paucity of these records and materials, young Pickus consulted with me, in the early part of the year 1953, and there and then we discovered that we were both working on the same project, which we felt to be worthwhile. It was at this time that we decided to merge our data and to pool our resources and our efforts, and jointly to publish "the work of our hands"; this work is therefore the result of our co-labors and of our co-operation, undertaken over a period of about two years.

We decided to supplement the sparse and scanty data and materials available and ascertainable with and through data secured through frequent consultations with the older members of the community, and with members of the local Sisterhood, B'nai B'rith Lodge, Hadassah chapter, and other individuals of Beckley, as well as of the nearby cities and towns of Fayette County, W. Va., and in this manner we were enabled to secure a wealth of data, facts, and historical notes which otherwise would soon have been forgotten or overlooked. As an illustration of the fact that we were "just in time," only two or three months after Manuel Pickus and I visited Harry Abel, one of the oldest members of our congregation here, at his home in Mount Hope, W. Va., that good and friendly man passed away, in late December, 1954; luckily, he (and his wife, Mrs. Dora Sopher Abel) was able to supply us, unstintingly and patiently, with literally pages of material on the early Jewish settlers, businesses, and conditions prevailing in the adjacent portion of Fayette County from the years 1895-1897 and on.

Among those whom we consulted, and who rendered us invaluable aid in the compilation and securing of the data following, we acknowledge our sincere and deep thanks to the following:

Dora S. Abel	Benjamin E. Lewis
Harry Abel	James Pickus
David Abrams	Nathan Pickus
Esther Abrams	Ruth Saks
Jack Binderman, Sr.	Gussie B. Saks
William Binderman	Edward Saymen
Edna Goldstein	Harry Seidman
Louis J. Fink	Jacob Silverberg
Irving Goldstein	Mrs. Faye R. Silverman
Anne Harvit	Isadore R. Wein
Zena Hochman	Ben H. Wender
Violet Levine	Max H. Wender

So far as we know, this is the first volume which has ever been published on the history of any West Virginia Jewish community.

The history of the small and comparatively recent Jewish community of Beckley, West Virginia, may not be of the *greatest* importance, nor may it be of importance *at all*; and yet it *is* part of the picture and history of the Jewish community of the United States of America and thus of world Jewry. We, its authors and compilers, do indeed hope that this little volume will prove to be of some value in the overall picture of American Jewry and of American Judaism, and valuable as an indication of the origin, growth, and (we hope, only temporary) decline of many an American Jewish community of smaller size. Can American Jewry and Judaism survive in the *smaller* Jewish congregations of the United States, in the *smaller* Jewish communities, those with fewer than one hundred families and members? We believe that they can, but only if the members and congregants of these congregations and communities have the will and the urge to survive, and to preserve their existence and their institutions.

Indeed, the answer to this question is in the hands of the Jews and Jewesses of our communities themselves, and in the hands of their children, in these small communities. If the Jews here survive, it will be because they *will* and *desire* to survive, and to remain Jews and to continue to perpetuate the Jewish religion and the Jewish communities. No adverse, hostile, outside physical force exists in this country which would prevent them from living and surviving if they wish to. The future of these communities throughout this free land of ours lies, not in the lap of the gods or in the limbo of time to come, but in our own hearts and in our own courage and in our own determination. To paraphrase a phrase of the Roman poet Virgil, *possumus si posse videbimur*, "We shall be able if we *believe* that we shall be able."

My beloved and esteemed coreligionist, friend, and colleague since 1911, Dr. Jacob R. Marcus, who is professor of history at the Hebrew Union College, in Cincinnati, Ohio, and who is himself an "adopted son" of West Virginia, having lived for many years in his boyhood and early manhood in Wheeling and in other places in this state, encouraged me to devote at least a part of my time and effort to interest in and to the study of American Jewish history in general, and in particular exhorted and inspired me to compile the (not too complete as it is) history of the Jews of West Virginia referred to above, and to the production of this volume. *Haec meminisse iuvat!* To his patience, gentleness, and nobility of character, to his love of humanity, and to his love of teaching and of learning *lishemah*, I am happy to pay this deserved tribute, *nemine cogente*.

Beckley, W. Va.

ABRAHAM I. SHINEDLING

May 15, 1955

Preface 2. By Manuel Pickus

The idea behind the writing of this history can be summed up in one word: "curiosity." A curiosity of finding out how and why, and, above all, why, 15 or 20 years ago, a small group of Jewish men and women met one evening and decided that their religion needed a house of worship.

When Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling and myself started this project, I personally did not realize the scope of it. What written records that we found were of little help, if any, for they were nothing but scraps of note book paper, the backs of envelopes, etc., etc. Many facts concerning our small Temple have been lost forever. Almost all our information came from the memories of our older men and women of the community. In the two years that we have been working on this book, we have come across a few names about which no information at all could be obtained. In these cases we have tried to fit them into the years. The small number of names which we have left out—and I am sure that the number is small — has not been intentional.

To thank every person who has taken a few minutes or hours from his time in order to give us information for this history would take many lines of type. And to repay the countless cups of coffee would also take many hours. But, to every one who has helped the rabbi and myself, many, many thanks!

I have learned many things from helping to write this history. There have never been many large financial donors, but the large number of men, women, and children who have given of their time and of their energy to our Temple is gratifying.

I have learned that the major resource which the Jews of this community have had is "the will to do it." In the organizations within the Temple there has been a desire to improve and to strengthen the Temple and Judaism. I hope that our efforts in writing this history will have two results: one, that if, some day, our Jewish congregation grows, this may be of some small help in building a better community; and second, that we may all find, what talking to my fellow Jews has shown me, that not only in our religion, but also in our separate way of life, we generally all hold the same things in common.

Beckley, West Virginia
June 1, 1955

MANUEL PICKUS



IN MEMORIAM:

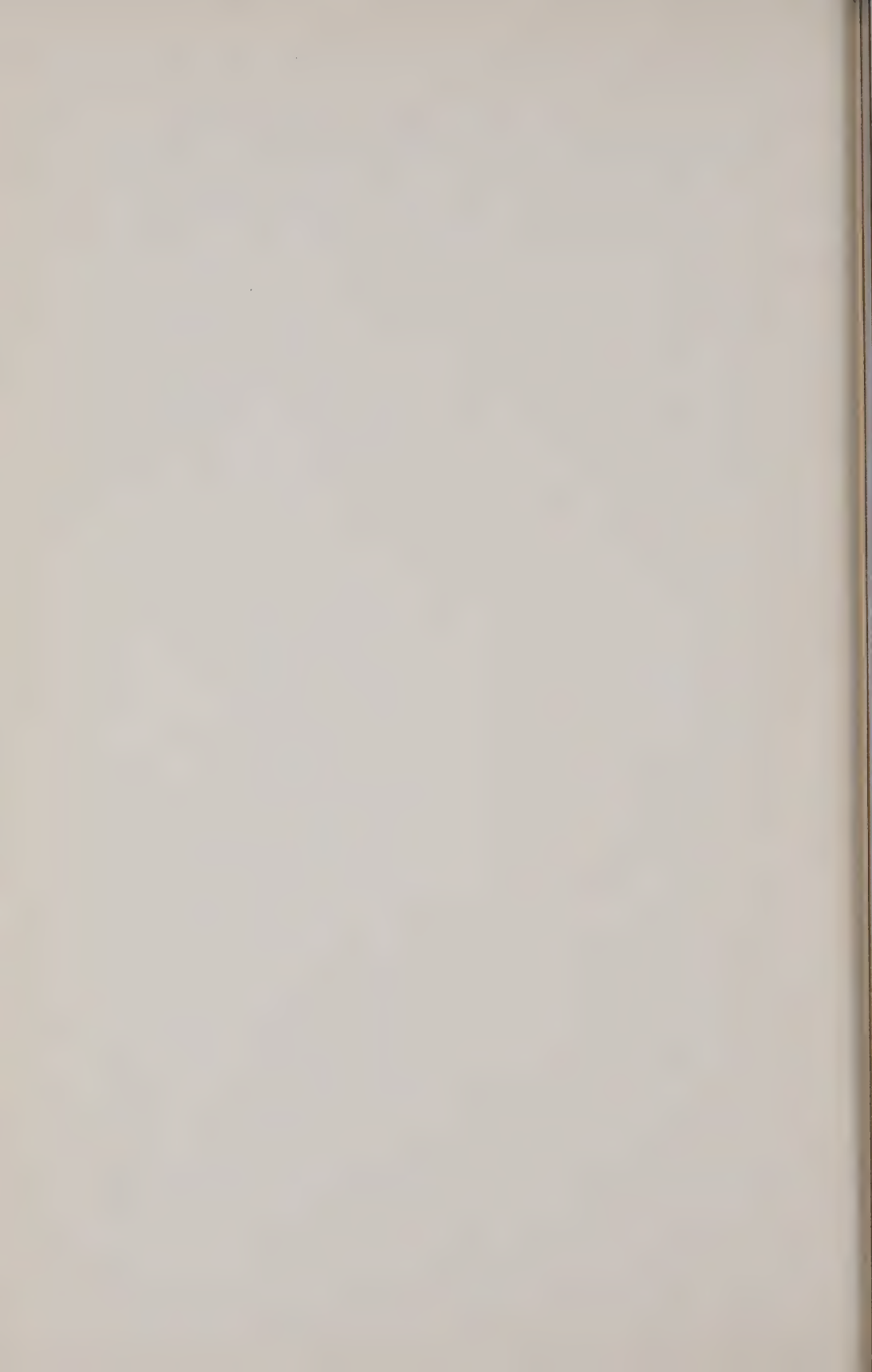
In affectionate and yearning memory, this page is dedicated to the memory of:

All the older and earlier Jewish settlers, and those of later years and times, who lived and worked and died in or near the city of Beckley, in nearby Mount Hope, Oak Hill, Scarbro, and Thurmond, in West Virginia; and who contributed to the welfare, the strength, and the prosperity of the congregation and community to a greater or a lesser degree; or who passed away in other cities while they resided in Beckley or after they had left Beckley:

Dedicated to the Loving Memory of:

Harry Abel
Samuel I. Abrams
David Arnstein
J. Leonard Baer
Nathan Berman
Harry Burk
Sidney Danbury
Larry Davis
Louis Fine
Annie W. Fink
Hyman Fisher
Max Fisher
Samuel Fisher
Marc Leon Front
Edward Gilbert
Charles Greenfield
Joseph B. Heller
Adele Holz
Ben Hurvitz
Charles Hurvitz

Tom Jaffee
Blossom Kamen
Sidney Labovitz
Eugene Lopinsky
Joseph M. Lopinsky
Morris Lopinsky
Mollie Lovitz
Joseph Mendel
Jacob Miller
Sana Moskovitch Pickus
Sarah Ethel Snow Pickus
Rabbi Bertrand E. Pollans
Abe Saks
Sam Scharlow
Jack Shechtman
Isadore Shubinski
Thomas Sopher
Sally Waitzman
Dora Fisher Wender
Morris H. Wender, Sr.



CHAPTER I

The Early History of Raleigh County and of Beckley

Beckley is the county seat of Raleigh County, located in the southern part of West Virginia, 51 miles north of Bluefield and from the Virginia border. Beckley is 72 miles southeast of Charleston, the state capital, and 125 miles southeast of Huntington, the largest city in the state. While Beckley has no mainline railroad, it is 11 miles from Prince, W. Va., through which the main line of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad passes from Norfolk, Va., to Cincinnati, Ohio.

Beckley, the heart of the bituminous (soft coal) industry of West Virginia, had, in 1954 (the year in which all the data contained in this volume have their *terminus ad quem*), an approximate general population of 22,000. In 1950 its population was 19,255, and that of Raleigh County was just a little less than 100,000. In 1954, Beckley had a junior and business college called Beckley College; a large state tuberculosis hospital, or institution, called Pinecrest Sanitarium (with 650 beds); and a Veterans Administration Hospital (with 200 beds), built in 1948-1950, and dedicated in December, 1950. Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling, rabbi of Temple Beth El, of Beckley (but from 1947 to 1950 rabbi of Congregation Ahavath Sholom, of Bluefield-Princeton, W. Va.), participated in both the dedicatory (opening) services of the Beckley VA Hospital, in December, 1950, as well as in the ground-breaking ceremony in early 1948. The Beckley VA Hospital was opened for the admission of patients in March, 1951.

In addition, by the end of October, 1955, the new Beckley Memorial Hospital, of the Miners Memorial Hospital Association, Incorporated (The United Mine Workers of America), was practically ready for the admission of patients. Located about three miles north of Beckley, on the road between Beckley and Mount Hope, it was built during the two-year period from 1954 to 1955, and provides the city of Beckley and the surrounding area with another large hospital for the care and cure of patients who are miners as well as for the general public.

On June 20, 1795, Andrew Moore of Rockbridge County, Va., and John Beckley, of Philadelphia (the father of General Alfred Beckley), obtained a grant of 170,038 acres on the waters of Piney River, Beaver Creek, Glade Creek, the Big and Little Bluestone Rivers, Mountain Creek, and Cooper's Creek. In the year 1836 Alfred Beckley came to Raleigh County (then a part of Fayette County) from Philadelphia, to "improve my interests in the Moore and Beckley patent."

This General Alfred Beckley (1802-1888), who was born in Washington, D. C., was the founder of the City of Beckley and "the Father of Raleigh County," as he was self-styled and also designated by others. He made the first map of Beckley, in 1848. Raleigh County itself was first founded and settled in the year 1850. The exact date of its founding was January 23, 1850, when the General Assembly of Virginia (of which state what is now West Virginia was then a part) met in General Session

at Richmond, the capital of the state, and approved an act for the formation of a new county west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. At the suggestion of Alfred Beckley himself, the new county was given the name of Raleigh County, after Sir Walter Raleigh (1552-1618), the famous English gentleman, courtier, historian, and explorer, and a contemporary of Queen Elizabeth I of England; it was Sir Walter Raleigh, the legendary "discoverer" and introducer of tobacco and of smoking into Europe, who made the earliest efforts to colonize the territory now known as the State of Virginia.

The new Raleigh County was formed by severing the southern part of Fayette County from that county; Fayette County itself was founded in 1831; it includes the towns or cities of Mount Hope, Oak Hill, Scarbro, and Thurmond, which are often mentioned in this history in connection with early Jewish residents and settlers. In April, 1850, a few months after it had been formed, the United States Census Bureau stated that Raleigh County had a population of (only) 1,765 persons. (There were no Jews at all in the county as early as that year, 1850.) Later, a part of the contiguous Wyoming County was annexed to Raleigh County, so that today (in 1954) Raleigh County has a total area of 610 square miles. In 1900 the county had a population of 12,436, and in 1950 its total population was 96,032.

General Alfred Beckley was, as has been briefly stated above, the son of John Beckley (died in 1807), who was the clerk in the House of Representatives at Washington, D. C., during the presidencies of George Washington, John Adams, and (in part) Thomas Jefferson; he served also as the librarian of the House of Representatives for a number of years. In 1783 John Beckley was the mayor of the city of Richmond, Va.; in 1788 he was secretary to the convention of Virginia on the Constitution of that year. After John Beckley's death, in the year 1807, his family moved to Philadelphia.

Alfred Beckley was a cadet at the United States Military Academy, in West Point, N. Y., from 1819 to 1823; he graduated in the latter year with the rank of second lieutenant. Then he served as an officer in the United States Army from 1823 to 1836, when he left the government service to remove to Fayette County, Va., the southern portion of which was then an unsettled and trackless wilderness, in order, as he himself wrote in the story of his life (in 1887), "to improve a body of unsettled stony lands for my widowed mother and myself, lying in the southern part (now Raleigh County). I devoted myself to the building up of wild lands, was instrumental in the building of Giles, Fayette and Kanawha Turnpike, and on the establishment of the new county now (1887) embracing over 10,000 inhabitants, I was the first clerk of the Circuit Court of Raleigh County, and in 1872, the County Superintendent of Schools. . . ."

*Much of the material in Chapter I has been selected and excerpted from the One Hundredth Anniversary Issue of the *Raleigh Register* of Beckley, issued in August, 1950, in connection with the celebration of the centenary of the founding and organizing of Raleigh County in 1850.

In 1849 the General Assembly of Virginia elected Alfred Beckley to the post of Brigadier General of Militia. The now General Alfred Beckley served for a little over a year (from 1861 to 1862) in the Civil War on the Confederate side, under the Confederate General Henry A. Wise. Beckley was captured in 1862 by the Union forces, and then, after a while, was released under parole about the year 1863. All stories to the effect that General Alfred Beckley had served as a Union Army general, that he was instrumental in the breaking away of the eleven counties of Virginia now forming the 55 counties of West Virginia and in the proclaiming of their separate statehood as West Virginia on June 20, 1863, in the middle of the Civil War, and that General Alfred Beckley fought on the side of the Union Army to prevent the Confederates from recapturing the territory now forming the State of West Virginia for Virginia and for the Confederacy, are pure fiction, rumor, and totally untrue.

On April 4, 1838, the Virginia Assembly met and chartered 30 acres of "wilderness," which its members called Beckley. Beckley itself was founded in that same year, 1838. It was named Beckley after John Beckley, the name of the father of its founder, General Alfred Beckley, who, as above stated, made this suggestion himself. (The plaque at the west end of the Raleigh County Court House Square, on the Main Street side, which states that the city was named after *Alfred* Beckley, contains and represents a curious error or misstatement, which is belied by the historical facts.)

In 1850, Beckley became the county seat of the new Raleigh County. On February 14, 1908, the West Virginia State Legislature passed the first charter act, which declared Beckley to be a city, and on April 26, 1927, again by decree of the West Virginia State Legislature, the second (the present) charter act went into effect; this second charter act added a considerable amount of land to the boundaries of the city. A new and third charter act, intended to add a still greater area of land to the city limits, is scheduled to go into effect on June 30, 1955; at that time the area of the city will be four square miles of land.

The place called "Atkinsville," according to an interesting item contained in the *Raleigh Register* in early 1955, was the starting point for the original city of Beckley, as well as for the second city. The present charter reads as follows (passed in 1927): "Beginning at a point where the corporate limits of the Town of Beckley and the corporate limits of the town of Atkinsville intersected — near Wildwood cemetery . . . to a point where White Stick Creek intersects with said right of way; thence a straight line to the forks of road in Johnstown, near the Cooper residence," and from thence in a straight line back to the previously mentioned point of beginning.

During the Civil War (1861-1865), a number of skirmishes were fought in the neighborhood of the new town of Beckley, and in that period the people of the county were about evenly divided in their allegiance to and in their sympathies for the North or for the South. Two

men who were, in later years, destined to become Presidents of the United States, i. e., Rutherford B. Hayes and William McKinley, saw service in the Union Army and experienced the hospitality of the people of Beckley, when they were stationed in the township with an Ohio company.

In 1873, the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad completed its line from the Eastern (Atlantic) seaboard to the Ohio River, and got within 11 miles of Beckley, i. e., reaching the much lower-lying town of Prince, W. Va. (northeast of Beckley), which is still the passenger railroad station for Beckley. (Beckley, being located some 2,300 feet above sea level, received only freight lines of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, which the city still has in use.) When, some short time after 1873, the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad ran freight spurs up the hills almost to the outlying section of the city, to the north, and the Virginian Railroad also ran its lines into Raleigh County, the result was a great and steady increase in the growth, size, and importance of Beckley as a center for the coal and timber businesses. In 1893, the first Raleigh County coal mine was opened at Royal.

In this connection, the figures on the growth of the population of Beckley are interesting. In 1880 the town had a population of only 144 persons. In 1890, it had a population of 158, i. e., a gain of only 14 persons *in ten years*. In 1900, it had 360 persons; in 1910, a total of 2,161 persons (it secured its municipal charter from the West Virginia Legislature in 1907); in 1920, it had a population of 4,149; in 1930, it had 9,537 inhabitants; in 1940, there were 12,862 persons living in the city; and in 1950 the number of its inhabitants totalled 19,255.

As has already been briefly indicated above, on June 20, 1863, Raleigh County and Beckley became a part of the state of West Virginia, when eleven counties of Virginia seceded from the latter state and from the Confederate States of America, in the middle of the Civil War, with the slogan (later adopted as the motto of the new State): *Montani semper liberi* ("Mountaineers [Are] Always Free"), and joined the ranks and the territory of the Union side. The Confederate armies failed in all their attempts to regain this territory for Virginia and for the Confederacy.

When Beckley became the county seat of Raleigh County, in 1850, General Alfred Beckley "conveyed to the people of Raleigh County their present beautiful courthouse plat of two acres as well as one-half the building lots of his town, providing the people would establish the seat of justice in and at the town of Beckley forever." Accordingly, the first Raleigh County Court House, built of brick, was completed in 1852, at a cost of \$2,722, but only three years later, in 1855, because of faulty construction, it had to be repaired. The second Raleigh County Court House was finished in 1893, constructed at a cost of \$34,354. It was used until the year 1935. The third Raleigh County Court House was completed in 1937, at a cost of about half a million dollars.

The earliest and first settlers (there were no Jews among them) in Beckley included James Cole, Henry Stanger, Jesse Dean, Edward Prince, Henry L. Gillispie, John McCreery, the Reverend Matthew Ellison, John McClure, and Daniel Shumate. Today, in Beckley, many streets in the city are still named after Ellison, McClure, McCreery, Prince, and others of these early or original settlers. Nathan Street, one block long, situated in the rear of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Co. Building, at the corner of Woodlawn Avenue and Beckley Place, and in back (to the south) of the Post Office building, and of Montgomery Ward's, and running from Fairlawn Ave. to Beckley Place, and lying one block west of Woodlawn Avenue and parallel to it, was named in 1920 after Nathan Pickus, one of the earliest (1911) Jewish settlers in Beckley. Nathan Pickus, Louis Pickus his brother, and Louis J. Fink bought a tract of land in 1917 or 1918 from Joe L. Smith, and divided it up into streets and lots, including what is now First Avenue, Bellevue Lane (then Smith St.), Fairlawn Ave., Beckley Place, and Woodlawn Avenue, and that street was named Nathan Street, by common consent, and was so recorded in the public records, and the street still bore that name in 1955. The partners later sold off all the lots and divisions into which their property was subdivided.

The date of the arrival of the first Jewish settlers in Beckley is shrouded in doubt; nothing is known about this with certainty, in view of the fact that Congregation Beth El (originally, up to 1948, called The Beckley Hebrew Association) was established at so late a period, comparatively, i. e., in 1935-1936, as an organized Jewish community. As a result, no earlier records were made or kept, or even thought of, and no congregational or community or even private, individual records were kept by the Jews of Beckley (as well as by those of Mount Hope, Scarbro, Oak Hill, and Thurmond) before the year 1935 and beyond. If such private records were kept, they are no longer available, and nothing is known of them. According to some, Beckley's first Jew was Ben Hurvitz, formerly of Scarbro, who early opened up a store on Main Street, in Beckley. Others of the oldest settlers assert that in their opinion, Louis Fine was in all likelihood the first Jew to settle in Beckley proper, arriving here several years before they came (in 1911) and before Louis J. Fink arrived in Beckley from Baltimore in 1914. Max Sager appears to have come to Beckley in 1909 or 1910, perhaps even before Samuel Fisher and Louis Fine, but it is not known or remembered with certainty by any of the other oldest Jewish settlers still living. Samuel Fisher, it would appear, settled in Beckley before 1910, after living for a short time in nearby Mount Hope.

A Brief Resume of the Earliest Jewish Settlers in Raleigh County and in Fayette County

1. Raleigh County

This much may be stated with certainty, at least with comparative certainty, that the earliest Jewish settlers in the little-more-than-a-decade from 1909, or just before the year 1910, to the year 1921 (arranged in

chronological, not in *alphabetical*, order) (There were, in all likelihood, no Jewish residents living in Beckley before then) were: (with the date of their arrival given in parentheses)

Max Sager (1909 or 1910)
 Samuel Fisher (before the year 1910)
 Louis Fine (1911 or before)
 Nathan Pickus (1911)
 Louis Pickus (1911)
 Samuel Scharlow (1913 or 1914)
 Louis J. Fink (1914)
 James Pickus (1914)
 Nathan Berman (1915)
 Jack Shechtman (1918)
 Jack Hart (before 1920)
 Louis Roth (before 1920)
 Hyman Roth (before 1920)
 Irving Goldstein (1920)
 Jack Plain (1920)
 Samuel Wasserkrug (before 1921)
 Abe Saks (1921)
 Jacob Silverberg (1921)

2. Fayette County

As for the part of Fayette County contiguous to Beckley, the earliest Jewish settlers whose settlement may be traced, with definiteness, in Mount Hope, Oak Hill, Scarbro, Thurmond, and in still smaller localities of Fayette County (arranged in *chronological* order, and with the year of their settlement in parentheses), from the earliest year of record, i.e., before 1897, up to 1920, were as follows:

Ben Hurvitz (before 1897) (he came to Beckley from Fayette County before 1910)
 Harry Abel (1897)
 Joseph M. Lopinsky (before 1900)
 Morris H. Wender, Sr. (about 1907)
 Max Fisher (before 1910)
 Eugene Lopinsky (before 1910)
 Henry Lopinsky (before 1910)
 Morris Lopinsky (1910)
 Joseph M. Cohen (1910)
 Hyman Fisher (1912)
 Samuel I. Abrams (1912)
 Louis Hillman (1912)
 Tom Jaffee (1912 or 1913)
 Samuel Abel (1914)
 Sam Weber (1916)
 Aaron Totz (1918)
 Albert Abel (1920)

CHAPTER II

THE EARLY AND LATER JEWISH SETTLERS*

A. The Early Jewish Settlers in Fayette County (Mount Hope, Oak Hill, Scarbro, and Thurmond)

(1895 to 1955)

So far as can now be ascertained with reasonable accuracy from whatever records the congregation and the community possess, and from the recollections and reminiscences of the oldest living (or recently deceased) Jewish settlers in Mount Hope and Beckley, the first Jewish settlers in the Beckley vicinity (Raleigh County and that portion of Fayette County which is adjacent to Raleigh County) came to Mount Hope, Oak Hill, Scarbro, and Thurmond, all cities or towns in Fayette County.

Mount Hope and Oak Hill were the sites of the older, the original, coal fields in this section of southern West Virginia. Beginning with about the year 1910, the Beckley coal fields became the most important, far overshadowing those around Oak Hill, Mount Hope, and Scarbro, with the result that many of the original Jewish families who had come to live in the four communities of Mount Hope, Oak Hill, Scarbro, and Thurmond, as well as in several still smaller towns or localities in Fayette County, left these cities, villages, and towns, and resettled in Beckley; or else they moved away altogether from the district, to such cities as Bluefield and Charleston, W. Va.; Cincinnati, Ohio; and Baltimore, Md. (In 1950, Mount Hope had a general population of less than 2,000; and Oak Hill's population was about 4,000. In 1954, there were only two Jewish families living in Oak Hill, both belonging to Congregation Beth El; in that same year, there were only four Jewish families residing in Mount Hope, all but one of them members of the congregation in Beckley.) As a result, by the year 1921, there were some 15 Jewish families settled in Beckley. In the early 1930's, there were about 30 Jewish families living in the now greatly enlarged city of Beckley.

*The authors acknowledge with great thanks and gratitude their indebtedness to the following persons of the community for valuable and otherwise unobtainable data and facts used in the compilation and writing of this volume:

On the Fayette County Jewish Settlers: On the Beckley Jewish Settlers

Harry and Dora Abel
Mrs. Samuel I. Abrams
Ben H. Wender
Max H. Wender

Jack Binderman, Sr.
Louis J. Fink
Irving Goldstein
Benjamin E. Lewis
James Pickus
Nathan Pickus
Eric Rosenbaum
Harry Seidman
Jacob Silverberg
Isadore R. Wein

On the Beckley Sisterhood

Mrs. Edna B. Goldstein
Mrs. Edward Harvit
Mrs. Rose Y. Pickus
Mrs. Gussie B. Saks
Mrs. Ruth W. Saks
Mrs. Minnie G. Samans
Mrs. Faye R. Silverman

On the Beckley Hadassah

Mrs. Zena Y. Hochman
Mrs. Violet G. Levine

The first Jewish families began coming into Beckley about or just before the year 1910. Before 1910, according to the memory of several of the oldest Jewish residents of the city, Ben Hurvitz had a general store here, and Sam Fisher operated a hotel called the Hull House, located on the site of the present-day Beckley Hotel, on the southwest corner of Main and South Kanawha Streets. There is otherwise no record or evidence that Jewish families lived in Beckley proper before that time, although, as has been stated above, some few families of Jews did reside in near-by Mount Hope, Oak Hill, Scarbro, and in a few other still smaller places, in Fayette County, even before the turn of the 19th century (before the year 1901). Louis Fine came to Beckley from Logan about 1911, or definitely several years before 1913 or 1914. Louis J. Fink came in 1914. Nathan and Louis Pickus arrived in Beckley in late 1911. Max Sager came in 1909 or 1910, perhaps before the arrival even of Louis Fine and Samuel Fisher. Sam Scharlow came to Beckley in 1913 or 1914, James Pickus in 1914, and Nathan (Nat) Berman in 1915. All these were the earliest, the original, Jewish settlers of Beckley.

Jewish families as well as a large number of single Jewish men came to Beckley from such widely scattered localities as Baltimore, Brooklyn, Chicago, and Cincinnati, and from New York City, as well as from other cities or towns of Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. In the years from 1920 through 1940, a number of families or of single Jewish men, who had settled in Beckley from 1910 on, and also thereafter, as has previously been indicated above, left the Beckley community and resettled in Bluefield, Charleston, and Huntington, in West Virginia; in Baltimore, Md.; in Cincinnati, Ohio; and in several of the cities of Virginia, especially Norfolk and Richmond; as well as in various cities of Florida.

In 1912 there was a general conflagration in Beckley which burned down a great portion of the business buildings of the young and small city, as well as the newspaper office, and thus it is possible that some of the early records were destroyed.

Many foreign-born Jews and their families, as well as single men, came to Beckley directly from Europe, or almost immediately after their arrival from various European countries, after a short stay in cities of the Atlantic seaboard or other places. Thus, Nathan and Louis Pickus, brothers, after their departure from Europe, in or about 1905, arrived (after short periods of time spent in other cities) in Fairmont, W. Va., on January 1, 1906, spent five years in Fairmont (Nathan Pickus) and in Monongah, West Virginia (Louis Pickus) in the ladies' clothing and general merchandise business, and then resettled in Beckley in late 1911. (Nathan Pickus was still living in Beckley in 1955, and was still in business there; but Louis Pickus and his entire family moved to Richmond, Va., in 1949.) Their younger brother, James Pickus, came to Beckley directly from Europe in 1914, and he, too, was still living in Beckley and in business there in 1955. The brother-in-law of the three

Pickus brothers, Jacob Silverberg, who had married their sister, Anna Pickus, in Poland, came directly to Beckley from the "Old Country" (Poland) with his young bride, in the year 1921; in 1955, Jacob Silverberg, also, was still residing in Beckley; he and his two brothers-in-law, Nathan and James Pickus, were all engaged separately in the ladies' ready-to-wear business. Jacob Silverberg was accompanied to Beckley from the Old Country also by Mrs. Sana Moskovitch Pickus, his wife's mother and the mother of the three Pickus brothers. Irving Goldstein, who came to the United States with his parents, Benjamin and Anna Goldstein, from Poland at an early age, came to Beckley in November, 1920, from Brooklyn, N. Y., where he had lived and worked for a number of years after immigrating into this country; he was accompanied to Beckley by his young bride, Edna Brodtkin Goldstein. Many of the later settlers in Beckley and the vicinity were encouraged to come to Raleigh County by relatives — brothers, uncles, cousins, brothers-in-law — who had settled in the area previously.

Jewish Settlers in Fayette County, W. Va.*

(1895 - 1955)

Many of the early Jewish settlers whose biographies are briefly listed below took up their residence and opened their places of business in Fayette County, within a radius of 15 or 20 miles from Beckley, in the late 1890's or in the early 1900's and 1910's. In those days it was a good day's journey by horse and buggy from Beckley to Mount Hope (9 miles) or from Beckley to Oak Hill (15) miles) and return, on the old, narrow, unpaved and unimproved roads which existed then.

The names of these early settlers are arranged in alphabetical (*not* chronological) order below. We have included also the names of those who settled in Fayette County in later years, all in *alphabetical*, not in *chronological*, order.

ALBERT ABEL. Albert Abel, a younger brother of Harry Abel, came to Mount Hope about the year 1920, coming directly from Europe, where he was born, at the instigation of his brother, and he has lived in Mount Hope ever since. At first he worked as a clerk in his brother's store, but in 1929 or 1930 he opened up his own store, Albert's Army (clothing) Store, on Main Street, in Mount Hope, and was still in business there in 1955, although he had moved his place of business across the street (the main business street in Mount Hope) from its original location, in 1952. In 1935-1936 Albert Abel became a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association.

***HARRY ABEL.** Harry Abel (born on December 25, 1884, in Europe) came to Fayette County in 1897, and at that time he remained in Fayette County for a few years, later opening a store in St.

*Those persons marked with an asterisk * are no longer resident in the Beckley area, or they are deceased, as indicated in the biographies.

Albans, W. Va. (near Charleston), where he remained for one year. Then he went to Cabin Creek, near Charleston, being in business there until 1906. He then moved to Mount Hope, where he managed the men's and women's general and ready-to-wear clothing store owned by the firm of Ben Hurvitz and Joseph M. Lopinsky. In late 1910, after a brief stay in Sewell, W. Va., Harry Abel again came back to Mount Hope, and once again, as manager, took charge of the Hurvitz & Lopinsky store. Later that same year (1910), Mount Hope burned down, and all the stores in the town were destroyed by the conflagration; soon these business houses were rebuilt, and from late in 1910 through the year 1914 Harry Abel managed the rebuilt store owned by Hurvitz & Lopinsky.

In 1914, Harry Abel went into business for himself in Mount Hope, opening a ready-to-wear clothing (or department) store, and he remained in this business until 1947, when he sold out to the Modern Furniture Store of Beckley (owned at that time by A. David Abrams and Isadore R. Wein), and retired from business. On December 29, 1954, Harry Abel died at Mount Hope, and was buried in Baltimore. In his retirement years (1947-1954) he was active as a member of the Beckley congregation and community, together with his wife, Dora Sopher Abel, a sister of Thomas Sopher, whom he married in 1916. (In April, 1955, a few months after her husband's death, Dora S. Abel moved to Baltimore, her original home.) Harry Abel was for years an active member of the Mount Hope Masons and of the Lions Club.

In 1935-1936, Harry Abel became a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association. In 1939, he was also a charter member of the Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith.

In 1925, Dora S. Abel became one of the charter members of the Beckley Sisterhood.

***SAMUEL ABEL.** Samuel Abel, a second brother of Harry Abel, came to Mount Hope from Buckhannon, W. Va., about the year 1914, and opened up a jewelry store in that same year. About the year 1930, he moved to Baltimore, where he was still living, and in business, in 1955.

***SAMUEL I. ABRAMS.** Samuel I. Abrams (born in Yanova, in the Province of Kovno, Lithuania, in 1887) came from Brooklyn, N. Y., to Scarbro, in the year 1912, at the age of 25, and worked for about a year for his cousins, Eugene and Morris Lopinsky, in their department store. He then returned to Brooklyn, but in 1918 he returned for good to settle in West Virginia, residing at first in Scarbro; he was followed a short time later by his wife, Esther Block Abrams, who was still living in Beckley in 1955, taking an active part in the work of Hadassah, the Beckley Sisterhood, and the congregation, and in the Religious School as an associate teacher in the Kindergarten Class.

Samuel I. ("Sam," as he was familiarly known) Abrams lived for several years in Scarbro, which at that time had several other Jewish families. Then, for the next fourteen years, he lived variously and successively in Oak Hill, Mullens, Matoaka, Welch, and again at Oak Hill, operating clothing and furniture stores in all these places; at one time he operated a similar store also in Whitesville, W. Va., although he did not live in Whitesville. Finally, in 1932, he settled in Beckley, where he lived for the rest of his life.

Samuel I. Abrams was at first in the furniture and then in the clothing business in Oak Hill and Beckley, at first in Oak Hill conducting a men's clothing store, and then, in Beckley, founding the Modern Furniture Store, which in 1955 had branches also in Sophia, Mount Hope, and Oak Hill, and which, in that year, was being conducted by his son, A. David Abrams, and by his son-in-law, Isadore R. Wein, who had taken over the business from Sam Abrams upon his retirement in 1944.

Samuel Abrams was a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association (later Temple Beth El), in 1935-1936, and from 1948 until his death at Newark, N. J., on April 12, 1952, he served as its vice-president and as a member of its Board of Directors. He also served as president of the Beckley Hebrew Association from 1946 to 1947. He had served for several years previous to 1948, also, as a director of the congregation. He was a member of a committee of three, consisting of Benjamin E. Lewis, Nathan Berman, and himself, which secured the plot of land for the erection of the Temple building of Congregation Beth El in 1935. During the last eight years of his life, after his retirement from business in 1944, Samuel I. Abrams was very active in the work of the congregation and in the support of the Temple Choir and of the Religious School.

In August, 1950, Samuel I. Abrams, together with Charles H. Levine and Louis J. Fink, was instrumental in securing the services of Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling (who was then about to leave Ahavath Sholom Congregation, in Bluefield) as the Rabbi of the Beckley Congregation. Through their interest and efforts, Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling came to Beckley directly from Bluefield, W. Va., on the first of September, 1950, and he was still serving Congregation Beth El, of Beckley, in October, 1955. From September 1, 1950, until Samuel I. Abrams' death in early April, 1952, at Newark, N. J., Samuel I. Abrams, acting as vice president of the congregation, assisted the Rabbi with various religious, cultural, and personal matters, serving with him on the Ritual and Religious Committees, also with the work and planning of the Temple Choir, and together they paid a large number of "good-will" visits to members and former members of the Congregation living in Beckley, Mount Hope, and Oak Hill. From 1944 until his death in April, 1952, Samuel I. Abrams was deeply

interested in the work and in the support of the Congregation and of its Religious School. He and his only son, A. David Abrams, were for many years intensely interested and active in the work of the Beckley B'nai B'rith Lodge, No. 1360.

In April, 1948, Esther B. Abrams became a charter member of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah.

Children: A. David Abrams; Jeanette Abrams Wein.

***JACOB BLOOM.** Jacob Bloom, a brother-in-law of Harry Abel, came to Mount Hope in 1922, from Emporium, Va., and opened a ladies' ready-to-wear store there. A few years later he moved to Oak Hill, engaging in the same business, and then, in 1941 or 1942, he sold out his store and moved to Florida, where he was still living in 1955.

HUGO BORNHEIM. Hugo Bornheim (born in Germany) came to the United States about the year 1938, and settled in Oak Hill, W. Va. Here he opened up the Oak Hill Furniture Store and the Clothing Credit Center, which two businesses he was still operating in 1955. Hugo Bornheim is a cousin of Eric and Hans Rosenbaum. He is a member of the Oak Hill Rotary Club.

Wife: Meta Adams Bornheim.

***JOSEPH M. COHEN.** Joseph M. Cohen, the father of Mrs. Beatrice (William) Binderman, was born in Papelan Province, Lithuania, in July, 1884. After his arrival in the United States, he settled in Charleston, W. Va., but in 1910 he moved to Thurmond, and later settled in Glen Jean, W. Va., but after about a year altogether spent in Fayette County, he moved back to Charleston, where he was still living in 1955. While in Fayette County he was in the cleaning and pressing business, and worked as a tailor. In Charleston, he is a member of, and active in, B'nai Jacob Congregation.

***LARRY DAVIS.** Larry Davis (born in New York City, in 1899), a brother-in-law of Benjamin E. Lewis, came from New York to settle in Mount Hope in 1923 or 1924. Here he conducted an army and navy clothing store. Later he moved to Montgomery (also in Fayette County, 25 miles from Charleston), again opening an army and navy clothing store, and he died in Montgomery on or about December 27 or 28, 1937.

***ROBERT DUBIN.** Robert Dubin (born at Brooklyn, N. Y., in 1922), a nephew of Samuel I. Abrams, came to Oak Hill in 1943 from Brooklyn. After working for three years in Oak Hill as the manager of Samuel I. Abrams' Modern Furniture Store, he left the region, about 1946, and returned to Brooklyn.

*ISRAEL FINK. Israel Fink (born at Brooklyn, N. Y., on April 15, 1895) came to Oak Hill from Norfolk, Va., in 1931. In 1941 he moved from Oak Hill to Newport News, Va., but in 1946 he returned to West Virginia, settling in Bluefield, where, together with his son-in-law, Bernard Snyder, of Bluefield then, he operated the Cavalier Cut Rate (drug) store. Israel Fink moved to Beckley in 1948, operating the Cavalier Cut Rate (drug) Store on Prince Street, and later, after selling this business, engaged in business as the Prince Loan Company, a pawnshop and general merchandise and jewelry store, also on Prince Street. On January 21, 1954, because of ill-health, Israel Fink retired from business and went to live again in Newport News, Va.

Israel Fink was a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association, in 1935-1936, and of the Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith, in 1939. From 1950 to 1951 he served as first vice president of the local B'nai B'rith lodge, and from 1952 to 1953 as a director of the congregation.

Israel Fink was always extremely active in the religious work of Congregation Beth El, and in the work and activities of the local B'nai B'rith Lodge.

His wife, *Sophie Winer Fink, was for many years very active in the work of the Beckley Sisterhood and of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah.

Their daughter, *Miriam Fink Snyder (who was living in Newport News, Va., in October, 1955), was the first person to be married in Beth El Temple (to Bernard Snyder, on November 10, 1940, with Rabbi Maxwell Berger as the officiant).

Wife: *Sophie Winer Fink.

Children: Miriam Fink Snyder; *Sidney.

*HYMAN FISHER. Hyman Fisher settled in Scarbro about 1912, operating a general store. Later he moved to Rainelle, W. Va., and engaged in business. He died at Rainelle about the year 1942.

*Mrs. Lillie Fisher (Mrs. Hyman Fisher), in 1925, became one of the 17 charter members of the Beckley Sisterhood.

*MAX FISHER. Max Fisher, a brother of Hyman and Sam Fisher, worked as a clerk in a general store in Thurmond, and later moved to Sophia, W. Va. (near Beckley), where he opened up his own store. He died in Sophia about the year 1914.

*SAM FISHER. Sam Fisher, a brother of Hyman Fisher, lived for a short time in Mount Hope (Fayette County), but finally settled in Beckley (see under Beckley).

*LOUIS HILLMAN. Louis Hillman came to Mount Hope from Portsmouth, Va., in 1912, and worked for Harry Abel in that

city for about ten years, then settled in Scarbro, about the year 1923. In Scarbro he was in business for himself for a number of years, after which he moved permanently to Norfolk, Va.

***BEN HURVITZ.** Ben Hurvitz (born at Taurogen, Lithuania, on October 25, 1867), who appears to have been the first Jewish settler who lived and conducted a business in Fayette County, settled in West Virginia before the year 1897, and in 1903 or 1904 he moved to and settled in Mount Hope, operating a general store there. He had come to the United States from his native Russia (Lithuania) about the year 1880, when he was only 13 years old. He lived in New York City for a while, then lived in Baltimore, then in Virginia, and finally, about 1903-1904, he moved to Mount Hope.

In 1897, when Harry Abel came to Mount Hope, Ben Hurvitz was already in Red Star, W. Va., operating a general store. Ben Hurvitz and his younger brother, CHARLES HURVITZ (whom he had in the interim brought over from Lithuania together with his sister and mother), were by that time in this business together in Red Star. Later, Charles Hurvitz left Fayette County and moved to New York City, where he died (date unknown).

Ben Hurvitz thereafter went into partnership with Joseph M. Lopinsky, who came to Sewell, W. Va., from Portsmouth, Ohio, about the year 1900; this partnership, for many years a prosperous one, was in the form of a general store at Sewell. At that time, or shortly after that, as they expanded their business interests, Ben Hurvitz and Joseph M. Lopinsky owned and operated general stores in Sewell, Thurmond, Red Star, Scarbro, and (still later) also in Beckley and in Welch, W. Va. The Beckley store was situated at the northwest corner of Heber and Neville Streets, where the Watkins Drug Store was located in 1955. Ben Hurvitz later owned and operated a shoe store in the building, in Beckley, at 324 Neville St., where Nobil's Shoe Store is now (1955) located. About the year 1918 Ben Hurvitz sold his place of business (the other stores had been given up or sold in the interim) to Aaron Totz, and moved to Charleston, where he died on April 19, 1942, at the age of 75. When Ben Hurvitz came to Red Star, he was the only person in this part of the country who owned a store.

***TOM JAFFEE.** Tom Jaffee came from Baltimore, about the year 1912 or 1913, and at first he worked for Eugene and Morris Lopinsky in Scarbro, as a clerk and salesman. From there he went to Oak Hill, working for Morris Lopinsky, and, after Morris Lopinsky died, Tom Jaffee moved back to Baltimore, where he died in 1954, after being in business for many years.

Tom Jaffee had two brothers, MORRIS JAFFEE and ERNEST JAFFEE, both of them originally from Baltimore, and both of whom also worked for Eugene and Morris Lopinsky at Scarbro for three

years. They then moved to Oak Hill, and after the death of Morris Lopinsky, both of them, also, returned to Baltimore to live, where they were still engaged in business in 1955.

BENJAMIN LEWIS. Benjamin Lewis (born in Brooklyn, N. Y., on January 15, 1908), a brother-in-law of Max H. Wender, came to Oak Hill, W. Va., in 1940, from Charleston, and for several years he worked for Abe S. Lovitz in his Home Outfitting Company in Oak Hill. He then left Oak Hill to enter the United States Army, seeing service in World War II until 1945 in the Medical Corps. In 1945 he settled in Mount Hope, at which time he opened up a general furniture store on Main Street, which he operated until 1954. He then opened the Mount Hope Loan Company, on Main Street, in Mount Hope, which business he was still conducting in October, 1955.

Benjamin Lewis took a prominent part in civic work in Fayette County and in Mount Hope. For two years he headed the Fayette County Infantile Paralysis drive, during which period Fayette County raised the highest sums of money secured for this worthy cause throughout the entire state of West Virginia. He suggested the holding of an annual Governor's Dinner in behalf of the infantile paralysis campaign for funds in Fayette County, a suggestion which was adopted. He is prominent in the Mount Hope Lions Club, and in 1955 he was serving as president of the Little League Baseball organization in Mount Hope, and was active in setting up this league.

In May, 1955, Paul D. Lewis, the elder son of Benjamin Lewis, was elected vice president of the Temple Beth El Youth Group, to serve until the end of the Religious School Year of 1955-1956.

Wife: Harriet Lerner Lewis

Children: Paul D.; Gordon G.

***EUGENE LOPINSKY.** Eugene Lopinsky, a brother of Joseph M. Lopinsky, settled in Thurmond before the year 1910. He came to Sewell, worked in a store for his brother for several years, and then, later, opened his own store in Thurmond. Still later he moved from Scarbro, where he had settled, to Welch, W. Va., and he died in Charleston, W. Va., in 1948.

***HENRY LOPINSKY.** Henry Lopinsky, a cousin of Joseph M. Lopinsky and of Eugene Lopinsky, lived for a while in Thurmond, before 1910. He had come directly from Europe to Sewell, W. Va., and then moved to Thurmond, opening up a general store in the latter place. About the year 1910 Henry Lopinsky moved away to Charleston from the region, after only a few years in West Virginia.

***JOSEPH M. LOPINSKY.** Joseph M. Lopinsky settled in Thurmond before the year 1900, and operated a clothing store there for a short time. He went into partnership with Ben Hurvitz (which see) about the year 1901 or 1902. After leaving Thurmond, he removed to Welch, W. Va., where he lived and operated a store until about 1915 or 1916, when he died at Welch.

***MORRIS LOPINSKY.** Morris Lopinsky, a cousin of Joseph M. Lopinsky, came to Scarbro from New York City in or about the year 1910, and entered the department store business with his cousin, Eugene Lopinsky. From Scarbro he moved to Welch, in 1920, the partners keeping and operating their store in Oak Hill. Morris Lopinsky died in Welch in 1930.

(All the Lopinskys mentioned above were cousins of Samuel I. Abrams, whose mother had been a member of the Lopinsky family in New York City.)

***ABE S. LOVITZ.** Abe S. Lovitz settled in Oak Hill about the year 1925; here he was in the furniture business until about the year 1944, when he moved to Florida. In 1935-1936 Abe S. Lovitz was a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association.

In 1925, *Mrs. Mollie Lovitz, the first wife of Abe S. Lovitz, became one of the 17 charter members of the Beckley Sisterhood.

Abe S. Lovitz's second wife, Mrs. Rose Lovitz, was president of the Beckley Sisterhood from 1938 to 1940.

ALFRED LOVITZ, SR. Alfred Lovitz, Sr., a brother of Abe S. Lovitz, came to Oak Hill first, then to Mount Hope, about the year 1930, and later moved to Beckley. Still later, he moved back to Mount Hope, where he was still engaged in the ladies' ready-to-wear and furniture business in 1955.

ALFRED LOVITZ, JR. Alfred Lovitz, Jr., the son of Alfred Lovitz, Sr., at first resided and worked in Mount Hope. After service in the Second World War, he settled in Beckley, where he went into the field of radio and television repair and installation work, in which he was still engaged in 1955.

***MORRIS SCHWARTZ.** Morris Schwartz, originally a tailor, came either from New York City or from Baltimore, in 1925 or 1926, to Oak Hill. Here he was in partnership in the clothing business with Samuel I. Abrams, for about a year after he came to Oak Hill. Then, after the dissolution of this business, a few years later, he returned to his home city.

***THOMAS SOPHER.** Thomas Sopher (born at Baltimore, Md., in May, 1891) originally settled in Mount Hope, in 1923, coming from Baltimore, and worked as a clerk and salesman in the clothing store of Harry Abel, his brother-in-law (who had married Thomas Sopher's sister, Dora). Later he was in business for himself in Mount Hope. In 1942, Tom Sopher (as he was

frequently and familiarly called) moved from Mount Hope to Beckley to settle, where he went into the furniture business, later (in 1945) opening up the Best Furniture Store, on South Fayette Street, below Howe Street, together with his two sons, Harold A. and Ira B. Sopher. This business was still being conducted by his sons in 1955.

Thomas Sopher died at Beckley on April 8, 1949. He was a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association, in 1935-1936, and also of the Beckley Lodge No. 1360 of the B'nai B'rith, in 1939.

Thomas Sopher's wife, Bertha Berman Sopher, was president of the Beckley Sisterhood from 1936 to 1937.

Children: Harold A.; Ira B.

*AARON TOTZ. Aaron Totz settled in Mount Hope, coming from Keystone, W. Va., and also conducting a general store, which he bought from the firm of Hurvitz & Lopinsky, about 1918. This store he operated until the early 1930's, when he moved to Welch, W. Va. Still later, he left Welch to settle in Baltimore, where he was still living in 1954.

Aaron Totz's wife, Mrs. Dora Totz, was the first president of the Beckley Sisterhood (1925-1926).

*HARRY WASSERKRUG. Harry Wasserkrug came to Beckley from Baltimore, about the year 1922. He is the brother of Samuel Wasserkrug, who formerly lived in Beckley. Later he left Beckley, and settled in Oak Hill, operating an army and navy clothing store. In 1952, he moved to Florida, retiring from business. Harry Wasserkrug was a charter member of the Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith, in 1939.

Wife: *Celia

Son: *Bernard

*SAM WEBER. Sam Weber, a brother-in-law of Morris Lopinsky, came to Scarbro from Brooklyn, N. Y., in 1916, and worked for the two Lopinskys in Scarbro. Later he entered the garage business in Scarbro. After a few years in Scarbro he settled in Oak Hill, where he became engaged in the department store business, again working for the Lopinskys. In 1934 he left West Virginia and returned to New York, where he was still living in 1954.

*MORRIS H. WENDER, SR. Morris H. Wender, Sr., the father of Max H. Wender and Ben H. Wender, of Beckley, and of Morris S. Wender, Jr., of Oak Hill, was born in the Province of Kovno, Lithuania, on August 1, 1861. He came to the United States in 1878, at the age of seventeen, and settled in Thurmond about the year 1907. Later he moved to Red Star, W. Va., and then to Scarbro, and still later to Oak Hill, settling in the last-named city in or about the year 1914. From 1916 to 1930, he was in business in Oak Hill, conducting a retail clothing store and department store; later, from 1931 to 1937, he was in the bakery

business in Oak Hill. In the fall of 1937 he settled in Beckley, where he died on December 17, 1938.

*Mrs. Dora Fisher Wender (died at Beckley in September, 1944), the wife of Morris H. Wender, Sr., became, in 1925, one of the 17 charter members of the Beckley Sisterhood.

MORRIS S. WENDER, JR. Morris S. Wender, Jr. (born at Scarbro, W. Va., on April 3, 1917), was, in 1955, a resident of Oak Hill, W. Va., where he was the owner of Wender's Credit Jewelers store. He served for four and a half years (1942-1946) in the United States Army Air Force. In February, 1955, he and Edward Saymen began instructing a class of aliens in American citizenship, at the Hill Hotel, in Oak Hill, under the auspices of Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith.

Morris S. Wender was the son of Morris H. Wender, Sr.

Wife: Dolores

Children: Matthew; Nickie (daughter).

The First Jewish Child Born in the Fayette-Raleigh County Region

As far as can now be ascertained, from the memory of the oldest inhabitants of the district, the first Jewish child born in the Fayette-Raleigh County region was **BEN H. (HYMAN) WENDER**, the son of Morris H. Wender, Sr., who was born in Red Star, W. Va., on August 12, 1908.

DOROTHY ABEL, a daughter of Samuel Abel, was born in Mount Hope, in 1913.

MAX H. WENDER, a son of Morris H. Wender, Sr., and a brother of the above-mentioned Ben H. Wender, was also born in the year 1913, on August 23rd, in Scarbro. (The biographies of Max H. Wender and of Ben H. Wender are given in the Beckley section of this chapter.)

(*See the note at the bottom of this page.)

Other Jewish children born early in Fayette County included: **EDNA FISHER** (daughter of Hyman Fisher), born at Scarbro, in 1913.

JULIUS FISHER (the son of Hyman Fisher), born at Scarbro, in 1909.

MORRIS S WENDER, JR. (the son of Morris H. Wender, Sr.), born at Scarbro, on April 3, 1917.

*Note. Max H. Wender, Ben H. Wender, Harry Abel, Irving Goldstein, James Pickus, Nathan Pickus, Benjamin E. Lewis, Louis J. Fink, Mrs. Esther B. Abrams (Mrs. Samuel I. Abrams), and Jacob Silverberg formed a large part of the "sources" who, as "old timers" of the region and city, provided many of the data on the early Jewish settlers and businessmen of Fayette and Raleigh Counties. Mrs. Gussie B. Saks, Mrs. Anne K. Harvit, Mrs. Ruth W. Saks, Mrs. Rose Y. Pickus, Mrs. Faye R. Silverman, and Mrs. Edna B. Goldstein were of invaluable aid in giving information which is included in the section of this volume dealing with the Beckley Sisterhood. Mrs. Violet G. Levine and Mrs. Zena Y. Hochman supplied important information on the origin and work of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah. To all the above-mentioned, the authors of this little volume are grateful for their aid, patience, and reminiscences, without which this volume would not have been possible, and without which many important and valuable data would have "vanished," or would have become "*spurlös versenkt*," lost in the limbo of forgotten time and antiquity.

B. The Jewish Settlers and Residents of Beckley* **(Raleigh County)**

(About 1910 to 1955)

The Jewish merchants, professional men, settlers, residents, and other persons of Beckley are, in this volume, divided into two groups:

1. the first group, consisting of those persons who came to, or settled in, or were born in, the city of Beckley in the earlier period, up to the year 1935, when the building of the synagogue, or Temple, of the congregation was begun; and

2. the second, or the later, group, consisting of those persons who came to Beckley in the later period, after the years 1935-1936.

1. The Earlier Jewish Settlers and Residents of Beckley * **(up to 1935-1936, the Date of the Building of the Synagogue)**

A. DAVID ABRAMS. A. David Abrams, the son of Samuel I. Abrams, was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., on November 19, 1919, and was brought to Scarbro, W. Va. by his parents in 1920, when he was one year old. His parents moved to Beckley in the year 1932. He graduated as a dentist from the University of Maryland, at College Park, Md., and served in the United States Army, later also in the United States Navy, as a dentist. In 1944, he and his brother-in-law, Isadore R. Wein, took over the Modern Furniture Company from Samuel I. Abrams, after the latter's retirement; they were still conducting this business in 1955, together with its branches in Mount Hope, Oak Hill, and Sophia, West Virginia.

A. David Abrams became a director of Temple Beth El in 1948, and retained this office until June, 1955. He was active in the work of the Beckley Civitans Club, and served as the chairman of its Program Committee in 1954. In May, 1955, he was elected a member of the Board of Directors of the Civitans Club. In July, 1955, he was reappointed chairman of the Civitans Bowl football game committee. He was active also in the Beckley Junior Chamber of Commerce. He served as the president of the latter organization in 1948. He was president of the Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith, from 1945 to 1947, and was a trustee of the Lodge from 1952 to 1955. In early May, 1955, he was elected 3rd vice president of the West Virginia State Council of the B'nai B'rith, for a two-year term.

In August, 1955, A. David Abrams was re-elected a member of the Board of Directors of the Congregation, for the year 1955-1956.

*Those persons whose names are marked with an asterisk * are no longer resident in Beckley, or they are deceased, as is indicated in the biographies.

From January, 1953, to January, 1955, A. David Abrams served as a member of the Board of Directors of the B'nai B'rith Emergency Fund.

A. David Abrams' wife, Ruth Levy Abrams, served as the president of the Beckley Sisterhood from 1947 to 1948, and was active in the civic and general work of the Beckley community. In April, 1955, she was elected treasurer of the Beckley Civinettes. In 1955 she was elected president of the Junior Department of the Beckley Women's Club, for a one-year term (September, 1955, to May, 1956). She was elected a member of the Board of Directors of the Beckley League of Women Voters in April, 1955.

In April, 1948, Ruth L. Abrams became a charter member of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah.

A. David Abrams' son, David Abrams, was, in September, 1955, elected as the librarian of the Junior Congregation of Temple Beth El, to serve for the school year 1955-1956. He had previously served as the secretary of the Junior Congregation, in the course of the school year 1954-1955.

Children: David; Richard; Dennis; Samuel I.

*DAVID ARNSTEIN. David Arnstein (born at Ungvar, Hungary, in October, 1898) came to Beckley from Harlan, Ky., in 1934. He had been in the jewelry business there as well as in Cumberland, Ky., before that. In Beckley he worked for a number of years as a jewelry customer salesman, and then he opened up his own jewelry business at his residence, at 610 South Oakwood Avenue.

After his death at Beckley, on November 22, 1954, his wife, Minerva (Minnie) Arnstein, continued the jewelry business in her home. David Arnstein was a brother-in-law of Isadore Rich (Reichenthal), his sister, Sarah Arnstein, having married Isadore Rich.

In 1935-1936, David Arnstein became a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association.

Bernice Lila Arnstein (born at Lynch, Ky., on July 24, 1931), the elder daughter of David Arnstein, was graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School, in 1948, attended Virginia Inter-mont College, at Bristol, Va., for one year (1948-1949), and then served in the United States Air Force as a nurse in hospitals for two years (1950-1952). After her return from service, she entered St. Joseph's Hospital, in Parkersburg, W. Va., and studied there for three years (1952-1955), graduating as a nurse on September 18, 1955. In that same month, Bernice L. Arnstein accepted a position as a nurse in the Beckley Hospital. She sang for several years in the Temple Beth El Choir (from 1945 on), before she left Beckley in 1950 to begin her career as a nurse,

and to study for that career in the above-named Parkersburg hospital. From 1946 to 1948 she served as a teacher in the Religious School of Temple Beth El.

Ruth Ann Arnstein, David Arnstein's younger daughter, is very active in the work of the Junior Congregation of Temple Beth El, and for two years she was librarian (1953-1955) of the Junior Congregation Library.

Children: Bernice Lila; Ruth Ann; Paul Henry

*NATHAN BERMAN. Nathan (Nat) Berman (born at Easton, Pa., on November 29, 1899) settled in Beckley about the year 1915, and at first he engaged in the furniture business (the Union Furniture Store), on Neville St. Later he entered the junk metal and scrap iron business, and was engaged in that business at the time of his death, at Beckley, on June 9, 1942. He supplied the steel which was used in the construction of the Temple building in 1935-1936.

Nathan Berman was one of the charter members of the Beckley Hebrew Association (later Congregation Beth El) in 1935-1936. He is generally credited with having given much of the initial impulse towards the organization of the congregation and towards the erection of its synagogue building in those years. He served as the congregation's first president, from 1936 to 1937. He served also for several years as a teacher in the Religious School. He was also a charter member of the Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith, in 1939. A memorial plaque to his memory is affixed to the rear wall of the sanctuary of Temple Beth El. A reproduction of this plaque forms one of the illustrations in this volume.

In 1925, Mrs. Dorothy B. Berman (Mrs. Nathan Berman) became one of the 17 charter members of the Beckley Sisterhood.

Wife: Dorothy Boiarsky Berman

Children: *Ralph E.; *Henrietta; *Marcelline; *Janet B. Levine; Robert J.; *Milford

*RALPH E. BERMAN. Ralph E. Berman (born in Beckley, W. Va., on July 4, 1923), the oldest son of Nathan Berman, attended West Virginia University, at Morgantown, W. Va., from 1940 on, receiving his B.A. and B.S. degrees there. In 1946, he was graduated with the M.D. degree from the Medical College of Virginia, at Richmond, Va. From 1947 to 1949 he served as a physician with the United States Army Medical Corps, in Japan and in the Philippines, and after completing his tour of duty in the Army, he practised as a physician for four years, from 1949 until July 20, 1953, in Charleston, W. Va. He then removed to Keansburg, N. J., where he was located in general medical practice in 1955.

Wife: *Audrey Rita

Children: *Jeffrey; *Jo Ann



THIS PLAQUE DEDICATED
IN MEMORY OF
NATHAN BERMAN
NOV. 29, 1899 — JUNE 9, 1942
FIRST PRESIDENT
THE BECKLEY HEBREW ASSOCIATION

ROBERT J. BERMAN. Robert J. Berman (born in Beckley, W. Va., on September 22, 1925), the second son of Nathan Berman, after attending West Virginia University, at Morgantown, W. Va., for a short time, entered the United States Army in December, 1943, and served until June, 1946; he had the rank of sergeant. He served as a provost sergeant of a prisoner-of-war camp in the United States during World War II, guarding German war prisoners.

From June, 1946, until 1951, he was self-employed in a house-to-house installment business. Then he traveled through the South, conducting jewelry liquidation sales for jewelry stores, for one year. From 1953 to 1955, Robert J. Berman was employed at Frankenberger's Men's Store, in Charleston, W. Va., as a sportswear salesman. In early 1955 he returned to Beckley, where he was engaged in business for himself, as a traveling salesman, selling housewares to the retail trade.

JACK BINDERMAN, SR. Jack Binderman, Sr. (born at Djourin, Province of Podolsk, Russia, on May 29, 1896), the brother of Charles Stromberg, came to Beckley from Hazleton, Pa., in 1928, and entered the credit clothing business. In that same year he founded the People's Credit Clothing Company, which he conducted at 429 Neville St. until his retirement from business in 1945. Since that year this business has been conducted by his son, William Binderman, for a time in partnership with Jack Binderman, Sr.'s, son-in-law, Edward Saymen.

Another son of Jack Binderman, Sr.; **DR. BENJAMIN BINDERMAN**, formerly a resident of Beckley, later became a dentist, and removed to Chicago, where he was still practising dentistry in 1955.

Jack Binderman, Sr., was a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association, in 1935-1936, and was its treasurer for several years in the earlier days of its existence. He was also president of the Association (congregation) from 1941 to 1942. He was a charter member of the Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith, in 1939.

Jack Binderman's wife, Manya Simonofsky Binderman, served a term as the treasurer of the Beckley Sisterhood, and sang for several years in the Temple Beth El volunteer choir.

In April, 1948, Manya S. Binderman became a charter member of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah.

Children: William; *Benjamin; Ruth Saymen; *Jack, Jr.

***JACK BINDERMAN, JR.** Jack Binderman, Jr. (born at Harlan, Ky., in 1924), the youngest son of Jack Binderman, Sr., was brought to Beckley by his parents in 1928 from Hazleton, Pa., to which city his parents had in the meantime removed. He was graduated from the Dental College of the University of Maryland in 1947, and even before his graduation he saw service (1945-1947) in the United States Army while he was still a student in the Dental School.

In 1947 he returned to Beckley, where he practised his profession. Recalled to the United States Navy as a dentist in 1952, he served for two years, seeing service in Japan, as a lieutenant, junior grade, and after that, in mid-1954, he returned to Beckley, practising dentistry there until December, 1954, when he settled in San Diego, Calif., as a dentist.

Wife: *Bernice

WILLIAM BINDERMAN. William Binderman (born in New York City, on March 5, 1916), the oldest son of Jack Binderman, Sr., came with his parents to Beckley from Hazleton, Pa., in 1928. After service in the United States Navy during World War II, from 1943 to 1945, he took over the management and ownership of the People's Credit Clothing Store, at 429 Neville St., in Beckley, and was still conducting that business in 1955.

William Binderman, like his father, was a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association, in 1935-1936, and also of Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith. From 1948 to 1955 he served as a director of Congregation Beth El, and before that he served for a period as its treasurer. He also served as treasurer of the local B'nai B'rith Lodge (1953-1955), and also for a term as its secretary (1939-1940).

William Binderman was the first secretary of the Beckley B'nai B'rith Lodge. Mrs. William Binderman, in September, 1955, became a substitute teacher of the Religious School, in which she had previously been a teacher for a number of years.

In August, 1955, William Binderman was re-elected a member of the Board of Directors of the Congregation, for the year 1955-1956.

William Binderman's son, Philip M. Binderman, after his confirmation on May 27, 1955, in Temple Beth El, became a teacher in the Religious School of the Congregation in September, 1955. His daughter, Valerie Binderman, was, in September, 1955, elected secretary of the Junior Congregation of Temple Beth El, to serve for the school year 1955 to 1956.

William Binderman's wife, Beatrice Cohen Binderman, served as president of the Beckley Sisterhood from 1945 to 1946, and also served for a year as its treasurer. From 1941 to 1942 she was recording secretary of the Sisterhood. In 1954-1955 she served as one of the three co-chairmen of the Beckley Sisterhood, and in April, 1955, was re-elected its president for the ensuing year. In 1954 she was elected recording secretary of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah, and was still serving in this position in June, 1955. She was re-elected for a 1 year term (1955-1956).

In April, 1948, Beatrice C. Binderman became a charter member of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah.

Children: Philip M.; Valerie

***HARRY BURK.** Harry Burk (born at Dvinsk, Latvia, on March 17, 1897), a brother of Mrs. Gussie Saks (Mrs. Abe Saks), came to Beckley from Norfolk, Va., in 1924. He had been brought to the United States by his parents in 1904. Harry Burk was in the clothing business (an army and navy clothing store) with his brother-in-law, Abe Saks, from 1924 to 1929, then he lived in Charleston for one year, after which he returned to Beckley, in 1930, where he opened up his own clothing store, which he operated until his death at Norfolk, on April 6, 1934.

***HERBERT E. COHEN.** Herbert E. Cohen (born in Brooklyn, N. Y., in 1905) came to Beckley from New York, and worked with Benjamin E. Lewis in Montgomery, W. Va., for a while thereafter. Later he went into partnership with Harry Seidman, and still later, after the dissolving of that partnership, he bought out Irving Goldstein's interest in the Union Store, at 102 North Heber St. In 1952 Herbert E. Cohen moved to Miami Beach, Fla., where he was engaged in 1955 in the laundromat business. For a while after leaving Beckley, he maintained his interest in the Union Store, which was managed for him by Fred Lewin until early 1954, when it was closed down.

Herbert E. Cohen served for a short period of time as the treasurer of Congregation Beth El.

His wife, *Mary Frances Newman Cohen, served for a term as the treasurer of the Beckley Sisterhood, and in 1941-1942 she served a term as its vice-president.

Children: *Millicent; *Barbara

***SIDNEY DANBURY** (originally Dannenberg). Sidney Danbury (born at New York City, about 1901 or 1902) came to Beckley in September, 1934, and managed the Star Clothing Company store, on South Kanawha St., in the Beckley Hotel building (originally owned by the Moses Trading Corporation, of New York; later purchased by the Kahn brothers of Charleston, W. Va.), until the year 1944 or 1945. In that year Sidney Danbury moved to Charleston, where he entered business for himself, opening the Roxy Clothing Store. He died in Charleston, W. Va., in 1948.

Wife: *Anne

***ROBERT DAVIS.** Robert Davis came to Mount Hope from Norfolk, Va., in 1925, and opened up a clothing store there. About the year 1930 he removed to Beckley from Mount Hope, and worked there as a jewelry salesman. About 1934 he left Beckley for New York City; in 1954, he was living in Newport News, Va.

In 1925, *Mrs. Gussie Davis (Mrs. Robert Davis) became one of the 17 charter members of the Beckley Sisterhood.

Robert Davis' wife, *Gussie Davis, served as the first treasurer of the Beckley Sisterhood, from 1925 to 1926.

***LOUIS FINE.** Louis Fine, one of the oldest and earliest Jewish settlers in Beckley, came to Beckley from Logan, W. Va., some time before the year 1914 (possibly in 1911 or before), and opened up a general store at 108 South Heber St., north of Neville St., where Louis J. Fink's Hub Store now is. In 1914, when he left Beckley and gave up his business to go to Charleston, W. Va., his store was taken over by Louis J. Fink, and was converted into the Hub Store. In Charleston, Louis Fine engaged in the shoe finding business, and was highly successful. He died at Charleston about the year 1950. His sons were carrying on the shoe finding business in Charleston in 1955.

Louis Fine, together with Sam Scharlow, are two of the earliest Jewish residents of Beckley about whom the present-day oldest Jewish settlers of the community have any recollections.

Wife: *Annie

***JACK FINK.** Jack Fink came to Beckley from Toronto, Canada, in 1925, and at first he worked as the manager of a credit clothing store. He left Beckley in 1927. He was formerly a brother-in-law of James Pickus.

Wife: *Irene Aronson Fink

LOUIS J. FINK. Louis J. Fink (born in Miluten, Province of Volland [Volhynia], the Ukraine, Russia, on February 7, 1883) settled in Beckley in July, 1914, coming from Baltimore, Md.; he thus was one of the earliest Jewish settlers in Raleigh County. At once he engaged in the ladies' ready-to-wear business, opening up the Hub Store in that same year (1914), on the premises formerly occupied by Louis Fine's general store, at 108 South Heber St., a few doors north of Neville St. Louis J. Fink had come to the United States from his native Russia in 1903. In 1932 he opened up the Vogue Store as well; the Vogue Store is situated at 224 Main St., at the corner of Heber St., across from the Hub. In both these stores he was, in 1955, in partnership with his two sons, Sidney Fink and Morie Fink.

Louis J. Fink was a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association in 1935-1936. He served as a director of the Beckley National Bank for several years, and as a member of the Discount Board of that bank as well, resigning from both posts in 1942, due to business reasons, his two sons having been drafted into service in the American Armed Forces in the course of the Second World War. In 1953 he aided in the financing and the construction of the Beckley Medical Arts, Incorporated, in East Beckley, at the corner of South Kanawha, Booth, and Foote Sts. (2401 South Kanawha St.). For a number of years Louis J. Fink was active in local charities and in local civic affairs.

*Mrs. Annie Wasserkrug Fink, the first wife of Louis J. Fink, became one of the 17 charter members of the Beckley Sisterhood.

Louis J. Fink's second wife, Minnie Fink, whom he married in Baltimore, is very active in local and nationwide Jewish charity work, and in the work of the Beckley Sisterhood and of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah.

In April, 1948, Minnie Fink became a charter member of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah.

Wife: Minnie Fink

Children: Sidney; Morie; *Edna Fink Friedman; *Ruth Fink Miller.

MORIE FINK. Morie Fink (born at Beckley, in 1920), the younger son of Louis J. Fink, served in the United States Navy as a pharmacist's mate, 1st class, from 1942 to 1945, seeing service in the Pacific Ocean, in the Medical Corps. Upon his return from the Armed Forces, in 1946, he entered business with his father, as a partner in the Hub and Vogue Stores. In 1954, he became manager of the Hub Store.

SIDNEY FINK. Sidney Fink (born at Baltimore, Md., on Sept. 20, 1914), the elder son of Louis J. Fink, was brought to Beckley from that city by his parents when he was six months old. From 1942 to 1945 he saw service in World War II, serving in the United States Army as a dock sergeant in North Africa. In 1946, upon his return to Beckley from the Armed Forces, he, too, became associated with his father as a partner in both the Hub and the Vogue Stores, and in 1954, he became manager of the Vogue Store.

Sidney Fink served as the president of the Beckley Hebrew Association (Congregation Beth El) from 1947 to 1948, and as a member of its Board of Directors from 1947 to 1955. Like his father, he also was a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association, in 1935-1936. From 1953 to 1954 he served as a member of the Board of Directors and as the treasurer of the B'nai B'rith Emergency Fund.

In August, 1955, Sidney Fink was re-elected a member of the Board of Directors of the Congregation, for the year 1955-1956.

Sidney Fink's wife, Irene Besso Fink, served as the president of the Beckley Sisterhood from 1952 to 1954. In October, 1953, she served as co-chairman of the State Convention at Beckley. In July, 1955, she was nominated for the office of State Sisterhood treasurer for the term October, 1955, to October, 1957.

In September, 1955, Sidney Fink and Irene B. Fink became members of the Temple Choir.

In October, 1955, at the 29th Convention (biennial) of the West Virginia Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, held at Morgantown, W. Va., Mrs. Irene B. Fink (Mrs. Sidney Fink), of Beckley, was elected State Treasurer, for the period from October, 1955, to October, 1957.

Children: Kenneth Martin Fink; Leonard Besso Fink

***SAMUEL FISHER.** Samuel (Sam) Fisher, a brother of Hyman Fisher and of Max Fisher, lived for a short time in Mount Hope (Fayette County), and later (before the year 1910) came to Beckley to settle; here he managed the Hull House (on the site of the present Beckley Hotel, at the corner of S. Kanawha and Main Sts.) for a number of years. Before that, he worked as a clerk in Ben Hurvitz's store in what is now the Woolworth Building, on Main St., between Fayette and Kanawha Sts.

Samuel Fisher died in Beckley in 1928, after removing to Charleston and living there for several years, engaged in business, and then returning to Beckley.

***DAVID FREED.** David (Dave) Freed (born at Simbrich, near Riga, Latvia, on March 29, 1891), the older brother of Joseph Freed, came to Beckley from Huntington, W. Va., in 1934, and in that year he was appointed the manager of the Beckley store of Embee's (Margolis Brothers) ladies' ready-to-wear stores (not locally owned). He remained with Embee's in Beckley until 1937, when, after being replaced in his position by his younger brother, Joseph Freed, he removed to Charleston, W. Va., entering employment with the same firm there. In September, 1955, he still held that position.

David Freed became a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association, in 1935-1936.

David Freed's wife, *Reba Freed, served for a term as secretary of the Beckley Sisterhood, in the early period of its existence.

***AARON FRIEDMAN.** Aaron Friedman (born at Baltimore, Md., in 1912), a son-in-law of Louis J. Fink, came to Beckley from Baltimore in 1931, and worked for his father-in-law as a clerk in the Hub Store for several years. He then went into business for himself as the owner of the first pawnshop in Beckley, located on Neville St. In 1942 or 1943 he moved to Newport News, Va., and still later settled in Los Angeles, Calif., where he was engaged in the electrical contracting business in 1955.

Wife: *Edna Fink Friedman

***SIDNEY FRIEDMAN.** Sidney Friedman came to Beckley from Roanoke, Va., in 1929 or 1930, and worked as the manager of Louis J. Fink's Hub Store for several years. He then moved to Welch, W. Va., where he opened up a jewelry store, which he was still conducting in 1955.

***EDWARD GILBERT.** Edward Gilbert, a brother of Ezra Gilbert, of Bluefield, W. Va., operated a men's clothing store in Beckley, having come to the latter city from Bluefield about 1924. In Beckley he bought out the clothing store owned by Harry Totz. He had originally owned a pawnshop and jewelry store, and later

changed it into a high-grade men's clothing store. He died at Beckley on June 5, 1947.

Edward Gilbert was a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association, in 1935-1936.

ARTHUR GOLDSTEIN. Arthur Goldstein (born at Brooklyn, N. Y., on November 12, 1921), the son of Irving Goldstein, was brought to Beckley by his parents in the same year. From 1939 to 1942 he was a student at Ohio State University, in Columbus, Ohio, and from 1942 to 1946 he served with the United States Air Forces, with the rank of sergeant, in the Second World War. In 1946 he returned to Beckley, and entered business with his father in the People's Finance Company; in 1955, he was still engaged in this business.

Arthur Goldstein served as vice-president of the Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith, from 1951 to 1954, after having been its treasurer for one year (1948-1949), and in April, 1954, he was elected president of the Lodge, serving from 1954 to 1955. For several years he was a member of the Lodge's Americanism Committee, actively engaged in instructing the foreign-born in Raleigh County to become American citizens, and in 1955 he was still engaged in this work, in conjunction with several other members of the Beckley Lodge.

In May, 1955, upon his retirement from the Presidency of Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith, Arthur Goldstein became chaplain of the lodge, as well as one of the three trustees of the Lodge, to serve until May, 1958.

Wife: Shirley Markowitz Goldstein

Daughter: Gail Ann

IRVING GOLDSTEIN. Irving Goldstein (born at Makava, Poland, on July 13, 1891) settled in Beckley in November, 1920, coming from Brooklyn, N. Y., where he had resided and worked for a number of years after he had been brought to the United States by his parents, Benjamin and Anna Goldstein. At first, together with his brother-in-law, Ezra Gilbert, of Bluefield, Irving Goldstein operated an army and navy clothing store, and also a dollar store, jointly, on Fayette St. In March, 1923, a fire broke out, and burned down his store. While waiting for the burned out store to be rebuilt, the partners bought a store building on Neville Street, on the site of the present Cohen Drug Store, between Heber St. and Woodlawn Ave., and they went into the department store business there.

In 1938, Irving Goldstein branched out into the small loans business, operated in conjunction with the department store, but some time later he closed out the department store and sold his holdings in the building, and devoted himself exclusively to the finance business, which he was still operating at 303 Prince St., together with his son, Arthur, in 1955

Irving Goldstein was interested strongly in the civic affairs of Beckley over a period of many years. He is a past commander of the American Legion Post in Beckley, and also past finance officer for 17 years of the local post of the American Legion. In 1935-1936, he was a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association, and served as its president (the second president the Association had) from 1937 to 1938, and also as the first treasurer of the congregation (1935-1936). From 1948 until 1955 he served as a member of the Board of Directors of the congregation. In 1939 he became a charter member of the Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith; he also served a term as president of the Lodge, from 1940 to 1941. In 1952 to 1955 he was a member of the Cemetery Committee of the Congregation, which established the Jewish section of the Sunset Memorial Cemetery in 1953, and still served in that position in 1955.

In August, 1955, Irving Goldstein was re-elected a member of the Board of Directors of the Congregation, for the year 1955-1956.

For two years he served on the VAVS Committee of the Beckley VA Hospital, as the representative of the Beckley Post of the American Legion.

In January, 1953, Irving Goldstein was elected a member of the Board of Directors of the B'nai B'rith Emergency Fund, for a 2-year term.

From 1953 to 1955 Irving Goldstein served as the president of the Warren Williams Junior Baseball League, a local baseball circuit established for the youths of Beckley and the area who are from 15 to 18 years of age. In October, 1955, he was re-elected for the year 1955-1956, and was still serving in that post.

Irving Goldstein's wife, Edna Brodtkin Goldstein, was president of the Beckley Sisterhood from 1934 to 1935.

In 1925, Edna B. Goldstein became one of the 17 charter members of the Beckley Sisterhood.

Children: Arthur; *Gloria Goldstein Calisch

*CHARLES GREENFIELD. Charles Greenfield came to Beckley from Logan, W. Va., before the year 1935, and entered the junk business. Strongly interested in the Jewish religion and in the Jewish community, he became a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association, in 1935-1936; in 1939, he became also a charter member of Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith.

Later, Charles Greenfield moved away from the Beckley community, to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he engaged in business. He died in Cincinnati in 1952.

*I. J. GREENFIELD. I. J. (Jerry) Greenfield, the son of Charles Greenfield, like his father, came to Beckley from Logan, W. Va., before the year 1935, and lived in Beckley for a number of years, being in the junk business with his father from 1937 on. He was

a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association, in 1935-1936, and, in 1939, also a charter member of Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith. Some years later, I. J. Greenfield removed with his father to Cincinnati, where he was still living in 1955, working as a salesman for the General Display Company.

***BEN HARRIS.** Ben Harris was a clerk in the furniture store (the Union Furniture Store) of Nathan Berman, and lived in Beckley for a number of years. In 1935-1936, he became a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association, and, in 1939, also a charter member of the Beckley Lodge of the B'nai B'rith. Later Ben Harris moved to Logan, W. Va., where he was still living in 1955.

***JACK HART.** Jack Hart (real name, Jacob Hart, but generally called Jack Hart or "Shorty" Hart) lived in Beckley for over five years, working as a tailor. He arrived in Beckley before 1920. About 1925, he moved to Philadelphia, where he settled permanently.

In 1925, *Mrs. Anna Hart, the wife of Jacob Hart, became one of the 17 charter members of the Beckley Sisterhood.

M. EDWARD HARVIT. M. Edward Harvit (born at Montreal, Canada, on May 8, 1906) came to Beckley from Mount Hope, where he had previously lived (1931-1933) after coming from New York City, in the year 1933, and two years later (1935) he became a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association. He entered the ladies' ready-to-wear business both in Beckley and in Whitesville, W. Va., and in 1955 he still conducted such a business in Whitesville. Edward Harvit was also, for some years, connected with the West Virginia State Board of Control, and in 1954-1955 he was still connected with the West Virginia State administration politically.

Edward Harvit served as president of Congregation Beth El from 1948 to 1950, and from 1948 to 1955 he served a multiple term as a member of its Board of Directors. He was also a charter member of the Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith, in 1939, and served as its president from 1941 to 1943, and as its secretary in 1941. In January, 1953, he was elected a member of the Board of Directors of the B'nai B'rith Emergency Fund, for a 3-year term.

Edward Harvit's wife, Anne Kandell Harvit, served as president of the Beckley Sisterhood in 1940 to 1941, and again from 1943 to 1944. She also served a term as the Sisterhood's treasurer, and in April, 1955, she was elected as 2nd vice president of the Sisterhood for the year 1955-1956. She was one of the three co-chairmen of the Sisterhood for the year 1954-1955. She is permanent chairman and custodian of the Sisterhood's congregational Book of Life. In 1948 she also served a term as the first treasurer of the newly founded Beckley Chapter of Hadassah. In May, 1954, Anne K. Harvit was elected a co-chairman of the Planning Committee of the Beckley Sisterhood, for the years 1954-1956, together with Nora B. Franks.

Rita Harvit, the daughter of Edward Harvit, was, in September, 1955, elected president of the Junior Congregation of Temple Beth El, to serve until the end of the year 1955.

Children: *Harold; Robert B.; Rita.

***HAROLD E. HARVIT.** Harold E. Harvit (born at Brooklyn, N. Y., on July 14, 1932), the elder son of M. Edward Harvit, was graduated from the School of Commerce of West Virginia University, at Morgantown, W. Va., on May 30, 1955, with the B.S. degree in business administration. He was a member of the R.O.T.C. at West Virginia University from 1951 to 1954, and received his commission as a 2nd lieutenant in the United States Infantry upon graduation. He was scheduled, in November, 1955, to enter the U. S. Army, as a 2nd lieutenant, at Fort Benning, Georgia. In Beckley, from 1947 to 1950, he was active in the first Temple Youth Group of Congregation Beth El, serving for years as its president and as a founder and charter member. On June 6, 1954, Harold E. Harvit married Gloria L. Levine, of Williamson, W. Va., at Williamson.

***CHARLES HELLER.** Charles Heller (born at Welch, W. Va., on October 17, 1927), the son of Joseph B. Heller, was graduated from Ohio State University, at Columbus, Ohio, in 1947, with the B.S. degree in business administration. He resided in Chicago from 1947 to 1950, where he worked at Wieboldt Stores, Inc., as a junior executive. In early 1951 he went to New York, where he joined R. H. Macy & Co. as a sales manager of children's wear. From May, 1951, until September, 1953, Charles Heller served in the United States Army, having attained the rank of lieutenant by the time he was separated from the service of the Armed Forces of the United States. Thereafter he returned to New York City, where he rejoined Macy's, and in 1955 he was employed with that firm as senior assistant buyer of dress fabrics.

Charles Heller resided in Beckley from 1931, when his parents moved to Beckley from Welch, W. Va., until 1947, and graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School, in Beckley, in 1944.

When Charles Heller was Bar Mitzvahed by Rabbi Maxwell Berger, in October, 1941, he was the second Jewish boy from Beckley or the area ever to be Bar Mitzvahed at Temple Beth El.

In September, 1955, just before Rosh Hashanah of the year 5716 (1955-1956), Charles Heller donated to Congregation Beth El a beautiful, new, velvet pulpit cloth, "in loving memory of his father, Joseph B. Heller."

***JOSEPH B. HELLER.** Joseph B. Heller (born in Austria, on April 3, 1885) came to Beckley from Welch, W. Va., in 1931, and worked as the manager (also as a partner) of the Lewis Furniture Company's store on Neville St., in Beckley, until his death at Beckley on March 31, 1954. In 1935-1936 Joseph B. Heller became a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association; he served

as president of the congregation from 1940 to 1941. He was also a charter member of the Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith in 1939, and served as its treasurer for a number of years after 1940.

A few months after his death, his wife, Sadie Polanski Heller, and his son, Charles, left Beckley and settled in New York City.

Wife: *Sadie Polanski Heller

Children: *Charles; *Shirley Heller Rubin.

*HELMUT HOLZ. Helmut Holz (born in Germany) lived in Beckley from 1935 to 1945. During this entire period he worked as bookkeeper and accountant for the Modern Furniture Company. Helmut Holz then went into business for himself as an accountant, and was living in Charleston, W. Va., in 1955.

*JOSEPH KEISERMAN. Joseph Keiserman (born at Vinnitze, Russia, on February 2, 1900), a brother-in-law of Jack Binderman, Sr., came to Beckley from New York City about the year 1932, and at first worked for Samuel I. Abrams, as a salesman, in the latter's Modern Furniture Store, on Neville St. After about a year in this position, Joseph Keiserman was employed as a salesman by his brother-in-law, Jack Binderman, Sr., in the People's Credit Clothing Store, also on Neville St., in Beckley, holding this position for three years, after which he and Jack Binderman, Sr., opened up a clothing store in partnership at Oak Hill, W. Va., calling it the People's Credit Store.

In 1948, William Binderman, a son of Jack Binderman, Sr., and Edward Saymen, the latter's son-in-law, bought out the interests of Joseph Keiserman, who thereafter left the Beckley region and lived for a time in Charleston. In 1955 he was living in Los Angeles, California.

In 1935-1936 Joseph Keiserman became a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association, and, in 1939, also a charter member of Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith. He served as president of the congregation from 1938 to 1939.

*DANIEL KEISERMAN, a son of Joseph Keiserman, also left the Beckley area together with his parents, after living in Beckley for a number of years and working here. In 1955 he was residing and working in Los Angeles, California.

WILLIAM KLEIN. William Klein (born in New York City, on November 27, 1907) came to Beckley from Huntington, W. Va., in April, 1934, and for ten years thereafter he worked as the credit manager for the Lewis Furniture Company in their store on Neville St. In May, 1943, he became an insurance agent (later district agent) for the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, of Fort Wayne, Ind.; he still held this latter position in October, 1955.

William Klein was a charter member of the Beckley Tennis Club, and one of the founders of the Beckley Life Underwriters

Association, whose secretary he was until early 1955, at which time he was elected a member of its board of directors.

In 1935-1936 William Klein became one of the charter members of the Beckley Hebrew Association, serving as the first secretary of the congregation, from 1936 to 1938, and as its president, from 1942 to 1943. He was also, in 1939, a charter member of Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith, serving as the president of the Lodge, from 1943 to 1945; as its treasurer, from 1940 to 1941; as its secretary, from 1951 to 1953; and as a trustee for several years; also, for a number of years, as its parliamentarian, which position he still held in 1955 (permanent parliamentarian of the Lodge). In 1955 he was elected to a 3-year term as a trustee of the Beckley B'nai B'rith Lodge.

As a member of the American Contract Bridge League, William Klein, together with Sam Hochman, was the winner of State and Tri-State contract bridge tournaments held in Beckley, Bluefield, Charleston, Huntington, and Parkersburg, in West Virginia; as well as the winner of tournaments (by himself) in Marietta and Dayton, Ohio. William Klein is a national committeeman of the American Contract Bridge League.

In September, 1955, William Klein was elected a life master by the American Contract Bridge League.

William Klein's wife, Ida Mandel Klein, was, in 1954-1955, the financial secretary of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah, and was still serving in this position in June, 1955.

In April, 1948, Ida M. Klein became a charter member of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah.

In 1955, Ida M. Klein was re-elected financial secretary of the local Hadassah, for a one-year term (1955-1956).

Ida M. Klein is well-known in local and state bridge circles as a contract and duplicate bridge player of great ability and note. Together with her husband, William Klein, and together with Sam and Zena Y. Hochman, she has participated in a number of local, statewide, and other contract bridge tournaments, and she has for years, together with them, been active in the work and affairs of the Southern West Virginia Bridge League.

Shirley Ruth Klein (born on December 16, 1932, at Columbus, Ohio), the daughter of William Klein, was graduated from the Woodrow Wilson High School, in Beckley, in 1952, and was confirmed in Temple Beth El on June 3, 1949. Although afflicted since her birth with cerebral palsy, she took correspondence courses in short-story writing, and has written a number of poems and short stories which are still in manuscript (to be published later). Shirley Ruth Klein was active in the work of the first Beckley Temple Youth Group.

Robert S. Klein, the son of William Klein, was, in May, 1955, elected the president of the Temple Youth Group of Congregation Beth El, for the year 1955-1956.

Children: Shirley Ruth; Robert Stanley

BENJAMIN E. LEWIS. Benjamin E. Lewis (born at Baltimore, Md., on June 3, 1898) came to Mount Hope, W. Va., from Washington, D. C., in 1919, and at first he worked for Harry Abel in the latter's clothing store in that city. He removed to Beckley in 1929, and opened up an army and navy store (clothing) (Ben's Army Store), at 412 Neville St., between Woodlawn Ave. and Third Ave., which business he was still operating in 1955. Benjamin E. Lewis lives in Beckley about half of the time, and in Washington, D. C., the rest of the time.

Benjamin E. Lewis was, in 1935-1936, a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association, and served as its treasurer for a period of some eleven years, from 1936 to 1947 (not continuously). He was also a charter member of Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith, in 1939, and served as its first president, from 1939 to 1940.

Benjamin E. Lewis' wife, *Ida Lewis, was president of the Beckley Sisterhood from 1935 to 1936.

Children: *Frances Mae; *Milford.

***JOSEPH MENDEL.** Joseph Mendel came to Beckley from Charleston, W. Va., in 1925 or 1926, and operated a furniture store there for some years. Later he moved back to Charleston, where he died in 1945.

Joseph Mendel's wife, *Mrs. Leah Mendel, served as president of the reorganized Beckley Sisterhood from 1927 to 1928.

***JACOB MILLER.** Jacob Miller (born at Schudville, Latvia, in 1885) was at first engaged in the junk business after his arrival in Beckley (from 1934 to 1937), to which city he had removed in the former year from Fairmont, W. Va. He then entered the retail and wholesale fruit and produce business, and remained in this business until his death at Beckley on September 6, 1946.

Jacob Miller was instrumental in helping to have the mortgage on the Temple building paid off, in 1944. His son, Joseph R. Miller, and his widow, Mrs. Dora Miller, were, in 1955, the only members of his family still residing in Beckley. Mrs. Jacob Miller and other members of her family resided for some years in Pittsburgh, Pa., before returning to Beckley to resettle.

A brother of Joseph R. Miller, Irving Miller, a traveling jewelry merchant and customer jewelry salesman, moved to Beckley from Logan, W. Va., in 1953, using this city as the basis of his mercantile operations.

Children: *Marion Miller Schwartz; Joseph R.; Irving; *Edith Miller Markowitz.

JOSEPH R. MILLER. Joseph R. Miller (born at New Kensington, Pa., on March 22, 1918), the son of Jacob Miller, came to Beckley in 1934 with his parents from Fairmont, W. Va., where his parents had lived for some time. In Beckley he at once engaged in the retail merchandising business, as the owner of the Reliable Home Furnishing Company; he was still engaged in this business in 1955.

Joseph R. Miller's wife, Sylvia Simon Miller, was, in 1955, elected corresponding secretary of the Beckley Sisterhood, and she held other offices in the Sisterhood during the years 1951 to 1955. From 1953 to 1954 she served as Sisterhood vice president.

In September, 1955, Sylvia S. Miller became a substitute teacher in the Religious School of Congregation Beth El.

Children: Jeffrey Donald; Dennis Boyd.

***BENJAMIN MYERS.** Benjamin (Ben) Myers came to Beckley about or in the year 1930, and for a number of years worked as the manager of the Cannon Shoe Store, on Neville St. He was called to Houston, Texas, about the year 1943 for business reasons, due to the death of a close relative, and he was still residing and engaged in business in Houston in 1955.

Benjamin Myers was a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association, in 1935-1936, and was active in all its affairs, serving as the secretary of the congregation from 1938 to 1940. Also, in 1939, he was a charter member of Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith, and served as its secretary for part of the year 1943, until he left for Houston.

Benjamin Myers' wife, *Sylvia Myers, served for a term (1941-1942) as treasurer of the Beckley Sisterhood.

***GERALD A. PICKUS.** Gerald A. (Jerry) Pickus (born at Beckley, W. Va., on December 27, 1928), the younger son of Nathan Pickus, served for several years as a vice-president of Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith; also, for a few years as one of its minor officers. After operating the J. & N. (wholesale) Jewelry Company, together with his brother, Malcolm Pickus, for several years (1948-1951), he entered business as a salesman for his father, Nathan Pickus, in the Budget Shop. After that, for less than a year, he operated a ladies' ready-to-wear store (in partnership) in Elizabethton, Tenn.; and in early 1955, after his marriage, he moved to Bluefield, W. Va., to enter the paint store firm of his father-in-law.

Gerald A. Pickus played for several years on the B'nai B'rith-Beth El Temple basketball team in the City Church League, and was for a number of years chairman of the Lodge's athletic committee. As such he arranged for several of the golf tournaments

and competitions held by the Beckley Lodge in Beckley and other cities in competition with other lodges of West Virginia.

Wife: *Gloria Blank Pickus.

JAMES PICKUS. James Pickus (born at Uzda, Province of Minsk, Russia, in 1890) settled in Beckley in 1914, coming to the city directly from Russia, where he had served a term as a soldier in the Czarist Russian Army. From 1914 to 1918 he worked for his two older brothers, Nathan and Louis Pickus, who had preceded him from Russia to Beckley, and both of whom had settled in Beckley late in 1911. In 1918, James Pickus served in the United States Army, in the First World War. In 1919 and 1920, James Pickus spent about a year and a half in Paducah, Ky., in the ladies' ready-to-wear business, but he returned to Beckley in mid-1920. At first he worked again for Louis and Nathan Pickus. Then, in 1925, James Pickus went into business for himself, opening the Quality Shop, a ladies' ready-to-wear store, at 105 Main St., near the corner of North Kanawha St.; this store he was still operating in 1955.

James Pickus was a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association, in 1935-1936. He was also, in 1939, a charter member of the Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith. Since his return from Paducah, Ky., in 1920, James Pickus has served as the *Baal Tokea* of the congregation, blowing the Shofar (ram's horn) at the religious services in the synagogue on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

It is of interest that James Pickus served in the Czarist Russian Army from October, 1909, until the end of 1912 (for three years), before he immigrated into the United States from Russia in 1914. So far as can be ascertained, he is the only Jewish resident in Beckley who ever saw service in the army of Russia or in any European army, in the period of or before the First World War.

James Pickus' wife, Naomi Aronson Pickus, served for a term as an early secretary of the Beckley Sisterhood, and sang for several years in the Temple Beth El Choir. She served also for a number of years as an early teacher in the congregational Religious School, and she also acts as a substitute teacher whenever called upon to do so. A native of Baltimore, Naomi Aronson Pickus is very active in the work of, and as a charter member of, the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah (in April, 1948).

Son: Manuel

***LOUIS PICKUS.** Louis Pickus (born at Uzda, Province of Minsk, Russia, in 1884), the older brother of James and Nathan Pickus, came to Beckley in late 1911 from Monongah, W. Va., where he had lived and been in the retail clothing business before that, for about three years. His brother Nathan Pickus came to Beckley from Fairmont at the same time. The two brothers had both arrived in the United States from their native Russia in 1906.

(Nathan Pickus lived in Monongah, W. Va., until 1908, and then he moved to Fairmont; Louis Pickus lived in New York City from 1906 to 1908, and then moved to Monongah, where he lived and was in business until 1911.) In Beckley, Louis Pickus formed a partnership with his brother Nathan Pickus, operating a department store on Main St. for a number of years; later they added an underselling store to their partnership, and operated both stores in partnership at the same time. The partnership of the two brothers continued until 1922. In that year the two brothers dissolved partnership, each taking one of the stores. Louis Pickus remained in business in Beckley until 1940, when he retired from the active mercantile business. In 1955 he still owned the building in which F. W. Woolworth's store is located, at 116 Main St., which he had purchased many years previously. He lived in Beckley until 1949, when he and his family moved to Richmond, Va., where they were still residing in 1955.

Louis Pickus was a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association in 1935-1936.

Louis Pickus' wife, *Sarah Ethel Snow Pickus, died at Richmond, Va., on August 28, 1955. She was one of the 17 charter members of the Beckley Sisterhood, in the year 1925.

Children: *Milton; *Regina

*MALCOLM PICKUS. Malcolm Pickus (born in Beckley, W. Va., on April 17, 1924), the elder son of Nathan Pickus, served for three years, from 1942 to 1945, in the United States Air Force, and then returned to Beckley. He attended West Virginia University, at Morgantown, W. Va., and George Washington University, in Washington, D. C., from 1945 to 1948. Then, returning to Beckley, he entered the wholesale jewelry business, in 1948, with his brother, Gerald A. Pickus, under the firm name of the J. & N. Jewelry Company; this business the two brothers conducted until 1951, when both of them entered the Budget Shop, at 111 North Fayette St., conducted as a ladies' ready-to-wear store by their father, Nathan Pickus; here they worked as clerks and salesmen, until in October, 1954, Malcolm Pickus moved to Waynesboro, Va., opening up a ladies' ready-to-wear store of his own, which he was still operating in 1955.

Malcolm Pickus was very active for almost a decade in the work of Beckley Lodge No. 1360. of the B'nai B'rith. He served as the president of the Beckley Lodge from 1953 to 1954, and from 1951 to 1953 as a vice president of the Lodge, also as one of its trustees, from 1953 to 1954. From 1952 to 1954 Malcolm Pickus served as the secretary of the West Virginia State Council of the B'nai B'rith. For many years, until the time of his removal from Beckley, he was an active member of the Lodge's Americanism

Committee, which took charge of the preparation of aliens in Raleigh County for becoming naturalized citizens of the United States.

In 1952 and 1953, Malcolm Pickus served as the co-chairman (together with his father, Nathan Pickus) of the Cemetery Committee of Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith, and as a result of the work performed by this Committee, the new Jewish Cemetery, of the Sunset Memorial Cemetery (Park), was established and consecrated in May, 1954.

Malcolm Pickus and his brother, Gerald A. Pickus, organized the Beth El Temple - B'nai B'rith basketball team in the Beckley Church League, Malcolm Pickus serving as the chairman or co-chairman of the League for years; and the two brothers played for several years on the basketball team of Temple Beth El-B'nai B'rith Lodge, until it was disbanded in 1954.

Wife: *Naoma Cook Pickus

MANUEL PICKUS. Manuel Pickus (born at Baltimore, Md., on August 14, 1931), the son of James Pickus, entered the Quality Shop of his father, in 1951, and was still engaged in that business in 1955.

Manuel Pickus was active for years in the work of the first Beth El Temple Youth Group, and served for a year or more as adviser to the second Beth El Temple Youth Group. He became 1st vice president of the Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith, in May, 1955, after having served from 1954 to 1955 as its 2nd vice president and after having occupied one or two minor posts in the Lodge, for two years before that. He taught for a time in the Religious School of Temple Beth El.

In early 1953, Manuel Pickus and Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling jointly conceived of the plan of compiling and preparing a history of the Beckley and area Jewish congregation and community, and devoted a large part of their time, during the next two years, to this project, doing research work with the congregational records, as well as with the available records of some of the local organizations, and interviewing the early Jewish settlers of Mount Hope, Oak Hill, and Beckley, and also the leaders of the several Jewish organizations in Beckley, for the purpose of securing and compiling data which would otherwise soon have vanished, in the course of time, or would have been forgotten, and preparing the manuscript of this volume for publication in the latter part of the year 1955.

NATHAN PICKUS. Nathan Pickus (born at Uzda, in the Province of Minsk, Russia, on September 15, 1887), another older brother of James Pickus, also settled in Beckley in late 1911, together with his brother, Louis Pickus. Upon arriving in the United States with his brother, Louis Pickus, from his native Russia late in 1905, Nathan Pickus lived in Monongah, W. Va., from 1906 to 1908, where he was engaged in the retail clothing business;

from 1908 to 1911, he resided in Fairmont, W. Va., also engaged in the retail clothing business. Late in the latter year both he and Louis Pickus moved to Beckley, where they opened up two stores, the one, a department store, in 1911, and the other, an underselling store, in 1913, in partnership, both located on Main Street. They remained partners until 1922, when each went into business for himself, each receiving one of the two stores. Some years later, Nathan Pickus gave up his older store, located at the corner of Main and Heber Streets, where Murphy's Department Store now is, and opened up the Budget Shop, a ladies' ready-to-wear store, at 111 North Fayette St., between Main and Prince Streets; this business he was still operating in 1955.

Like his two brothers, Nathan Pickus was also a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association, in 1935-1936, and he became a member of the Board of Directors of the congregation in 1952, serving until June, 1955. In 1952 he became chairman of the Beth El Temple Cemetery Committee, which post he still held in 1955; he was active in the creation of the Temple Beth El Jewish Cemetery in Sunset Memorial Park, in 1953, together with Irving Goldstein and Isadore R. Wein, the other members of the Cemetery Committee. Nathan Street, running for one block parallel to Woodlawn Ave., behind the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Building, and behind the Post Office building and Montgomery Ward's, was named after Nathan Pickus, in 1920; he had been co-owner (1917 on) of this portion of land, together with Louis Pickus and Louis J. Fink, and the partners developed this street and the adjacent section of land, dividing it into streets and lots, which they later sold off. Nathan St., one block long, extends from Beckley Place, on the north, to Fairlawn Ave., on the south.

In January, 1953, Nathan Pickus was elected to a 2-year term as a member of the Board of Directors of the B'nai B'rith Emergency Fund.

Nathan Pickus' wife, Rose Yaffee Pickus, was president of the Beckley Sisterhood for a term (1937-1938) and served as its first secretary, from 1925 to 1926, and again from 1927 to 1928. She taught for years in the first Sunday School organized in Beckley by the Jewish residents, from 1922 on, long before the congregation was actually formed, and has been active for years in various organizations in Beckley in the general community, especially Pinecrest Sanitarium. Rose Y. Pickus has been a member of the Beckley Women's Club for 34 years (1921-1955), and was one of the charter members of the Beckley chapter of the League of Women Voters; she was also a charter member of the Raleigh County Cancer Society. She also founded the Pinecrest Library. Since 1941, Rose Y. Pickus has been State Hospital Chairman of the American Legion Auxiliary at Pinecrest Sanitarium. In 1941-1942, she served as chairman of the State Federation Standing Committee on Young Folks Temple League.

In April, 1948, Mrs. Rose Y. Pickus became a charter member of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah. In 1925, she became one of the 17 charter members of the Beckley Sisterhood.

In October, 1955, Mrs. Rose Y. Pickus was instrumental, as temporary chairman, in aiding in the formation of the "Golden Age" Club in Beckley, for persons of the community 60 years of age or older; she served as chairman of the Golden Age Committee of the Beckley Woman's Club, which sponsored the new club.

Children: *Dolores Pickus Bayer; *Malcolm; *Gerald A.

*SANA MOSKOVITCH PICKUS. Sana Moskovitch Pickus (Mrs. Mendel Pickus) came to the United States in August, 1921, accompanying her daughter and her son-in-law, Mrs. Anna P. Silverberg and Jacob Silverberg, from the "Old Country," Poland (The Silverbergs had just been married in Warsaw in July, 1921), to her new homeland, three years after the end of World War I. Her husband, *Mendel Pickus, had died on the 26th of Iyar, 5669 (May 17, 1909), in his birthplace, the "ancestral" home of the Pickus family, i.e., in the town of Uzda, Province of Minsk, Russia. Mrs. Mendel Pickus was the mother of James Pickus, Louis Pickus, and Nathan Pickus, and (as above mentioned) of Mrs. Jacob Silverberg. In 1925, Sana Moskovitch Pickus became one of the 17 charter members of the Beckley Sisterhood, and took an active part in its affairs until her death, at Beckley, on the 27th of Tishri, 5694 (October 17, 1933).

Sana Moskovitch Pickus was a religious woman, versed in Hebrew and Yiddish religious literature, and the first High Holy Day services, or the first Jewish religious services, ever to be held in Beckley, were held in September, of the year of her arrival, 1921, in the old Beckley Presbyterian Church, on South Kanawha St., with a student from the Hebrew Union College conducting the services. These religious services were held in honor of her arrival in Beckley, and for her benefit primarily.

It is of unusual interest that when Sana M. Pickus left Russia, in August, 1921, she brought with her to this country four old Hebrew-Jewish (Yiddish) volumes. Two of these volumes were a set of *Machzorim* (prayerbooks for the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur), which she had received from her grandfather in Russia. They were printed at Vilna, in 1878, and are entitled *Machzor Lerosh Hashanah Veyom Hakippurim*, and they were printed with a German translation and a commentary in Hebrew characters (known as *Ivri-Deitsh*). The other 2 volumes which she brought to America consisted of a two-volume set of the *Tzeenah Ureenah*, a Yiddish translation, paraphrase, and commentary on the Five Books of Moses (the Torah, or Pentateuch), printed in Russia at about the same time, in Hebrew letters but in

the Yiddish language (*Ivri-Teitsh* or Hebrew-German [Yiddish]). These 4 very old volumes were, in October, 1955, in the possession of her daughter, Mrs. Jacob Silverberg, in Beckley.

*JACK PLAIN. Jack Plain came to Beckley from Baltimore in 1920, and worked for several years for Nathan and Louis Pickus in their original department store at the corner of Main and Heber Streets. After that, about the year 1924 or 1925, he returned to Baltimore.

*LOUIS ROTH. Louis Roth, together with his cousin, Hyman (Hy) Roth, worked for Nathan and Louis Pickus before 1920 in their original department store, on Main Street, for about three years. Later, Louis Roth returned to Cincinnati, from which he had come originally, and went into business with his father there, while Hyman Roth moved to Charleston, W. Va., entering business there, and still residing there in 1955.

*SAMUEL RUDIN. Samuel Rudin (born at New York City, on November 15, 1896) came to Beckley from Charleston, W. Va., in 1932. He studied accountancy at New York University from 1919 to 1923, and became a public accountant. He left New York City in 1923 to settle in Charleston, working as a public accountant. In 1932 he moved to Beckley, living here until 1935, when he settled in Mount Hope. From 1932 to 1938, in both Beckley and Mount Hope, he worked as a part-time public accountant, as well as the treasurer of the Price Hill Colliery Company. When the colliery company closed down in 1938, Samuel Rudin continued to live in Mount Hope, until 1947, working in Mount Hope, Hinton, Beckley, Oak Hill, Montgomery, Charleston, the Rainelle area, and in parts of Kentucky contiguous to West Virginia as a public accountant. In 1947 he removed to Charleston once again, where he was still engaged as a public accountant in 1955.

Samuel Rudin was for a number of years a member of the Beckley Hebrew Association (1936-1947). It is of interest that his only son, Stanley Arthur Rudin, in early September, 1955, received his Ph.D. degree in clinical psychology from the University of Illinois, and later in September, 1955, he became an instructor in psychology at West Virginia University, in Morgantown, W. Va.

Wife: *Lillian Cohen Rudin

Son: *Stanley Arthur Rudin

*MAX SAGER. Max Sager came from Brooklyn, N. Y., to settle in Scarbro, about 1909 or 1910, working for his cousin, Joseph M. Lopinsky, in his clothing store. After living and working in Scarbro for eight or nine years, Max Sager moved to Beckley, where he became the manager of Nathan and Louis Pickus' earlier department store on Main Street. After residing and working in Beckley for three or four years, Max Sager moved back to

Brooklyn, in 1921 or 1922, where he went into business. He was a cousin of Morris and Joseph M. Lopinsky and of Samuel I. Abrams.

*Mrs. Ida Sager, the wife of Max Sager, was, in 1925, one of the 17 charter members of the Beckley Sisterhood.

*ABE SAKS. Abe Saks (born in Dvinsk, Latvia, on December 28, 1895) came to Beckley in 1921 from Norfolk, Va., and at first (from 1924 on) he operated an army and navy clothing store (from 1924 until 1929 in partnership with his brother-in-law, Harry Burk), until 1945, under the name of Abe's Army Store. After that he engaged in the jewelry business, opening up the Saks Jewelers Store, at 319 Neville Street.

Abe Saks was a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association, in 1935-1936, and also, in 1939, of the Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith. From 1939 to 1940 he served as the treasurer of the Beckley Lodge. For a number of years, in the absence or lack of a rabbi, he conducted Orthodox Minyans for occasions of Yahrzeit and for Kaddish Yasom (orphans' Kaddish), and read Orthodox services at other religious occasions.

Abe Saks died in Norfolk, Va., on October 7, 1947, at the age of 51, while he was on a visit to relatives there.

In 1955, the Saks Jewelry Store, which he founded, was still being conducted by his son, Daniel M. Saks, and by his widow, Mrs. Gussie Burk Saks; his eldest son, Bernard L. Saks, who was in the business until the end of June, 1955, moved to Waynesboro, Va., at that time with his family to open up a kiddies' clothing shop.

Abe Saks's wife, Gussie Burk Saks, served for several years as the treasurer of the Beckley Sisterhood. On October 10-13, 1942, when the 20th convention of the West Virginia Federation of Temple Sisterhoods was held in Beckley, at Temple Beth El, she served as convention co-chairman, together with Mrs. Bernard E. Silverman. In April, 1955, she was elected first vice president of the Beckley Sisterhood, for the year 1955-1956.

Mrs. Gussie B. Saks, in 1925, became one of the 17 charter members of the Beckley Sisterhood.

Children: *Bernard L.; Daniel M.; *Robert W.

*BERNARD L. SAKS. Bernard L. Saks (born at Norfolk, Va., on May 22, 1917), the oldest son of Abe Saks, came to Beckley from Norfolk with his parents in 1922. From 1941 to 1942 he studied at the Art Students' League, in New York City. From April, 1945, to October, 1947, he was in the restaurant business in Newport News, Va.; in the latter year he returned to Beckley, where he became co-manager, with his brother, Daniel M. Saks, of Saks Jewelers (Store), at 319 Neville Street. He retained this position until the last week in June, 1955, when he removed to Waynesboro, Va., to open up a kiddies' clothing store.

Bernard L. Saks was noted for years in the Beckley area as a musician and as a calligrapher and art worker, singing and playing in bands on special occasions and for dances. For years he filled out the confirmation and Bar Mitzvah certificates issued by the congregation to its confirmands and to its Bar Mitzvah boys. He sang for years in the Temple Beth El Choir.

From 1947 to June, 1955, as a calligrapher of note, Bernard L. Saks designed and executed the art posters, advertisements, and placards which were used by the Beckley Sisterhood and by the Beckley Lodge of the B'nai B'rith for display purposes in stores and in the Temple itself, for their affairs, parties, sales, and other purposes. He also wrote, annually, the entries made into the Beckley Sisterhood's congregational *Book of Life* (*Sefer Hazahav*, the *Golden Book*), containing the records of all the events and occasions of joy and of sadness in the life of the entire community, under the direction of its permanent chairman for the Sisterhood, Mrs. Anne K. Harvit.

Bernard L. Saks's wife, *Ruth Wolman Saks, a sister of Louis Wolman, was recording secretary for five years of the Beckley Sisterhood (1949-1954), and vice president and chairman and acting president of the Sisterhood in 1954-1955. She taught for a year in the Temple Religious School.

Son: *Jerome Harold

DANIEL M. SAKS. Daniel M. Saks (born at Norfolk, Va., on December 20, 1918), the second son of Abe Saks, was brought to Beckley by his parents from Norfolk in 1922. He served in the United States Navy as an aviation chief radioman (PA) from February, 1937, to February, 1947, seeing service also in the Second World War. Upon his return from military service to Beckley, in 1947, he became co-manager of the Saks Jewelers Store, together with his brother, Bernard L. Saks, located at 319 Neville Street; he held this position until late in June, 1955, when, his brother, Bernard L. Saks, having moved to Waynesboro, Va., Daniel M. Saks and his mother, Mrs. Gussie Burk Saks, became co-managers and co-owners of the Saks Jewelers store.

Daniel M. Saks served for a time as treasurer of the Beckley B'nai B'rith Lodge No. 1360 (from 1948 on), and in April, 1955, he was elected 2nd vice president of the Lodge for 1955-1956.

***ROBERT W. SAKS.** Robert W. Saks (born in Beckley, W. Va., on December 31, 1924), the youngest son of Abe Saks, attended Furman University, in Greenville, S. C., and then he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, serving from 1942 to 1946. He saw service in the South Pacific theatre of war with the Fourth Marine Division as a bugler and captain's runner. He received the First Purple Heart for an injury sustained on Saipan, and the Second Purple Heart for an injury sustained on Iwo Jima.

After returning to Beckley from military service in 1946, Robert W. Saks attended Strayer College, in Washington, D. C., from 1948 to 1951, and in the latter year he received a degree in accounting. Then he worked for a short time with his two brothers, Bernard L. Saks and Daniel M. Saks, in the Saks Jewelers store in Beckley. He removed to Washington, D. C., in the latter part of 1951, and he was still living and working in the latter part of 1955 in the national capital.

(In November, 1955, Robert W. Saks gave up his position and residence in Washington, D. C., to return to Beckley, where he joined his mother and brother, Daniel M. Saks, in the Saks Jewelers Store.)

*SAM SCHARLOW. Sam Scharlow, one of the earliest Jewish residents in Beckley, moved to Beckley from Baltimore about the year 1913 or 1914, and opened up a tailor shop, making suits to order. About the year 1916 or 1917, Sam Scharlow left Beckley and went back to Baltimore, operating a wholesale tailoring and clothing business; he died at Baltimore about the year 1951 or 1952. He is one of the oldest Jewish residents of Beckley (together with Louis Fine) about whom the present-day (1955) earliest Jewish residents of the city have any recollections.

*ALBERT SCHWARTZ. Albert Schwartz (born in Rejektiv, Poland, on May 7, 1907) came to Beckley from Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1934, and engaged in the house furnishings business. He was naturalized as an American citizen in 1942. At one time he served as a member of the Board of Directors of Congregation Beth El. In September, 1954, Albert Schwartz left Beckley with his family, and settled in his original home city of Pittsburgh, where he again entered the house furnishings business. He is a brother-in-law of Joseph R. Miller.

Wife: *Marian Miller Schwartz

Children: *Sandra Lee; *Daniel Howard

HARRY SEIDMAN. Harry Seidman (born at New York City, on November 24, 1904) came to Beckley from Charleston, W. Va., in 1930. He had come to West Virginia originally from Brooklyn, N. Y., where he lived and worked for many years. At first he worked as a salesman for the Star Clothing Company store, operated in Beckley by the Kahn Brothers of Charleston, W. Va.; later he went into the credit clothing business with Herbert E. Cohen. Still later, having dissolved his partnership with the latter, Harry Seidman opened up his own credit clothing business, Seidman's Style Shop, at 47-A Prince Street (near North Heber Street), which business he was still operating in June, 1955.

Wife: Jean Brash Seidman

***JACK SHECHTMAN.** Jack Shechtman settled in Beckley in 1918, coming from Cincinnati, and working for a while in the furniture business operated by Nathan Berman, the Union Furniture Store. Jack Shechtman died at Beckley in 1923, at an early age.

JACOB SILVERBERG. Jacob Silverberg (born at Warsaw, Poland, on October 10, 1898) came to Beckley from his native Poland in 1921, and from 1921 to 1925 he worked as a clerk for his two brothers-in-law, Nathan and Louis Pickus, in their original department store, on Main Street. From 1925 to 1926 he worked as a clerk in Irving Goldstein's department store, on Neville Street. In the latter year he opened up his own business, the Sample Shop, a ladies' ready-to-wear and millinery business, at 305 Neville Street, which he was still conducting in 1955.

In 1935-1936, Jacob Silverberg became a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association; in 1948 he was elected a member of the Congregation's Board of Directors, and held this position until June, 1955. He was also a charter member of the Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith, in 1939.

Jacob Silverberg's wife, Anna Pickus Silverberg, was for many years active in the work of the Beckley Sisterhood and Hadassah.

In April, 1948, Anna P. Silverberg became a charter member of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah. In 1925, she became also one of the 17 charter members of the Beckley Sisterhood.

Children: *Malcolm; *Sonia

***MALCOLM SILVERBERG.** Malcolm Silverberg (born at Baltimore, Md., on August 3, 1927), the son of Jacob Silverberg, after graduation from Woodrow Wilson High School, in Beckley, in 1945, entered the University of West Virginia, at Morgantown, W. Va., and, after serving in the United States Navy for thirteen months, as a quartermaster (1945-1946), was graduated from the University of West Virginia with the B.S. degree in business administration, in June, 1950. In September, 1950, he married Eleanor Cohn, daughter of Hyman Cohn, of Charleston, W. Va., and in that same month he moved to Charleston, engaging in the insurance business, together with his father-in-law, as an insurance salesman and consultant, for the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, of Fort Wayne, Indiana. In October, 1955, Malcolm Silverberg was still engaged in this business, in Charleston.

Malcolm Silverberg was the first Jewish boy ever to be Bar Mitzvahed in Beckley, or in Temple Beth El; this Bar Mitzvah ceremony was conducted under Rabbi Maxwell Berger, in August, 1940, at the Temple.

Wife: *Eleanor Cohn Silverberg

Children: *Jeffrey David; *Carol Jane

***SONIA SILVERBERG.** Sonia Silverberg (born in Beckley, W. Va., on November 18, 1933), the daughter of Jacob Silverberg, attended Woodrow Wilson High School, in Beckley, from 1947 to

1951, and after her graduation she attended Ohio State University, in Columbus, Ohio (1951-1953), and the University of Georgia, at Athens, Ga. (1953-1954). In 1955 she moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where, in October, 1955, she was working as a clerk and as an office worker in a finance and small loans company. Sonia Silverberg played for 3 years in the Woodrow Wilson High School band as a student, and also taught for 2 years in the Religious School of Congregation Beth El. She was a member of the first Temple Beth El Youth Group during the entire course of its existence.

HAROLD A. SOPHER. Harold A. Sopher (born at Baltimore, Md., on May 8, 1918), the elder son of Thomas Sopher, came to Mount Hope, W. Va., with his parents in 1926, and resided there until 1942, when the family moved to Beckley. After service from 1943 to 1944 with the United States Air Force in World War II, Harold A. Sopher, in 1945, together with his father and with his younger brother, Ira B. Sopher, entered the furniture business in Beckley, establishing the Best Furniture Company, on South Fayette Street, below Howe Street; this business he and his brother were still conducting in 1955.

In 1954, Harold Sopher was appointed Raleigh County Civil Defense Director. He served also as vice-commander and secretary of the Beckley Wing of the Air Force Association for one term; in 1954 he was elected to the former post.

Harold A. Sopher's wife, Maxine Bryant Sopher, served as a teacher in the Congregation Beth El Religious School from 1952 to 1955.

Son: Russell

IRA B. SOPHER. Ira B. Sopher (born at Baltimore, Md., on June 3, 1923), the younger son of Thomas Sopher, came to Mount Hope, W. Va., from Baltimore, with his parents, in 1926. He worked in Mount Hope on a part-time basis from 1939 to 1945 as assistant manager of his uncle's (Harry Abel's) department store; at the same time, he was employed as a traveling salesman for the Interstate Home Equipment Company. In 1942 he moved to Beckley from Mount Hope together with his parents. In 1945 Ira B. Sopher went into business as the Best Furniture Company, together with his father and his older brother, Harold A. Sopher; in 1955, he and his brother were still conducting this business on South Fayette Street.

***SAMUEL WASSERKRUG.** Samuel Wasserkrug, a brother of Harry Wasserkrug, settled in Beckley before the year 1921. At first he worked for Louis J. Fink in the latter's Hub Store, and then he operated an army and navy clothing store. Later he opened the Marie's ladies' ready-to-wear store at 318 Neville Street, between Heber Street and Woodlawn Avenue, and was still operating this

store in 1955, although he had in the meantime transferred his residence to Washington, D. C.

Samuel Wasserkrug was a charter member of the Beckley Hebrew Association, in 1935-1936.

*Marie Wasserkrug, the wife of Samuel Wasserkrug, became, in 1925, one of the 17 charter members of the Beckley Sisterhood.

BEN H. WENDER. Ben H. Wender (born at Red Star, W. Va., on August 12, 1908), the son of Morris H. Wender, Sr., lived in Sophia, W. Va., and had a jewelry store there for some years. He attended V.M.I. and Marshall College, and in Sophia, W. Va., he was very active in the Lions Club, and was one of the founders of the Sophia, W. Va., post of the American Legion. He was the first commander of this post. About the year 1942 he entered the United States Army as a private, and at the end of his service he was a captain. In 1952 he left Sophia, W. Va., and settled in Beckley, opening up Wender's Jewelry Store, at 433 Neville Street, near Third Avenue, and was still engaged in business there in 1955.

Wife: Sadie R.

Daughter: Vicky D.

MAX H. WENDER. Max H. Wender (born at Scarbro, W. Va., on August 23, 1913), the son of Morris H. Wender, Sr., came to Beckley from Oak Hill in 1937. He then opened up the Lincoln Loans company (general merchandise) in Beckley, at 102 North Heber Street, between Neville and Prince Streets, and was still engaged in this business in 1955.

In 1940-1941 (1943?) Max H. Wender served out the term of Ben Myers as treasurer of Temple Beth El, when Ben Myers moved to Houston, Texas, in the middle of his term (1943). In May, 1955, he was installed as treasurer of the Beckley Lodge of the B'nai B'rith, for the year 1955-1956.

On October 12, 1955, Max H. Wender resigned his office of treasurer of the local B'nai B'rith Lodge, due to reasons of ill-health, and after serving in that office since May, 1955; Dr. Bernard E. Silverman was elected treasurer of the Lodge to replace him, to serve until May, 1956.

Wife: Freda Lewis Wender

Children: Michele E.; Lynda D.

***NATHAN WOLF.** Nathan Wolf came from Brooklyn, N. Y., to Beckley about the year 1934, and worked for the Modern Furniture Store as manager for about two years. After that he returned to Brooklyn.

2. The Later Jewish Settlers in Beckley*

(after 1935-1936)

*CHARLES ABRAMS. Charles Abrams (born at Brooklyn, N. Y., on February 12, 1915), a nephew of Samuel I. Abrams, came to Beckley from Brooklyn in 1935, and for eight years (1935-1943) worked as bookkeeper and accountant for the Modern Furniture Store (the second store of that company, where the Modern Furniture Company warehouse now is, on South Kanawha and McCreery Streets). He then entered the United States Army, seeing service overseas for two years (1943-1945), after which he returned to Beckley for a year. However, in 1946, Charles Abrams moved to Florida, and in 1948 he returned to Brooklyn, where he was still residing and working as an accountant and bookkeeper in 1954.

*J. LEONARD BAER. J. Leonard Baer (born in Baltimore, Md., on July 1, 1888) came to Beckley from Wheeling, W. Va., in 1940, having practised law in Keyser, W. Va., and in Wheeling from 1912 on, after his graduation from the University of Maryland Law School. In Beckley he practised law from 1940 until his death in that city, on December 7, 1948. J. Leonard Baer, the only Jewish lawyer ever to practise in Beckley, was a member of the Raleigh County Bar Association and of the West Virginia Bar Association.

From 1944 to 1945, J. Leonard Baer served as the president of the Beckley Hebrew Association.

J. Leonard Baer's wife, Rose R. Baer, served as a teacher in the Religious School of Temple Beth El from 1953 to 1955, and was still on the faculty of the Religious School at the end of the 1954-1955 Religious School year. She is active in the work of the Beckley Sisterhood.

Son: Maurice

*ISADORE BINDERMAN. Isadore Binderman (born in Djourin, Province of Podolsk, Russia, on May 3, 1898), a brother of Jack Binderman, Sr., and of Charles Stromberg, came from Charleston, W. Va., to Beckley about the year 1941, and at first worked for the Leader Furniture Store, which was then operated by his two brothers on Prince Street, near North Heber Street. However, after only a short time, he went into business for himself in Beckley, as a salesman of household furnishings. In 1947 he left Beckley for Brooklyn. Later, he purchased, and settled on, a chicken farm (for the production and sale of eggs) near Lakewood, N. J., where he was still living in 1955.

Isadore Binderman took an active interest in the affairs of the Beckley Hebrew Association, and he served for one year as

*Those persons marked with an * are no longer resident in Beckley, or are deceased, as indicated in the biographies.

its vice president. For several years he worked for the annual United Jewish Appeal drives in the Beckley area community.

ALFRED E. COHEN. Alfred E. Cohen (born in Brooklyn, N. Y., in 1907), the brother of Herbert E. Cohen, came from Brooklyn to Beckley in 1940, and during the year following he worked as a clerk and salesman for the Seidman Style Shop, at 47-A Prince St., in which his brother was then a partner. In 1941 he went into business for himself, as a house-to-house salesman of clothing and dry goods (1941-1943). In the latter year, Alfred E. Cohen began to work for the Union Credit Store, which his brother had purchased in the meantime, but two years later he opened the State Credit Store (a general clothing store) in nearby Sophia, W. Va., which he conducted until 1954, when he opened Al's Pawn Shop, at 207½ Prince Street, in Beckley, which he purchased from Israel Fink before the latter left Beckley to move to Hampton, Va., in January, 1954.

In his younger years in Brooklyn (1927-1930), Alfred E. Cohen, fighting under the name of "Al" Cohen, was a noted amateur and then a professional lightweight boxer, and for many years he has been prominent in Beckley sporting circles as a boxing judge and referee.

Wife: Betty

***CHARLES DARVIN.** Charles Darwin came to Beckley from Baltimore, Md., in 1937, and worked for three years in Benjamin E. Lewis' Army and Navy Clothing Store, at 412 Neville St. Later he moved to Logan, W. Va., lived in Logan for a number of years (1940-1953), and then moved back to Baltimore, where he and his family were still living in 1955.

ARCHIE ELLENBOGEN. Archie Ellenbogen came to Beckley from Brooklyn, N. Y., and in 1955 he was the owner of the Elco Lumber Company, located in nearby Beaver, W. Va.; he was engaged also in the construction of houses. In 1954-1955 he was chairman of the Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith, Americanism Committee, which prepared the foreign-born of Raleigh County for naturalization; he still served in that position in 1955. He served as treasurer of Congregation Beth El for a short time in 1947-1948.

From January, 1953, to January, 1954, Archie Ellenbogen served a one-year term as a member of the Board of Directors of the B'nai B'rith Emergency Fund. He is active in B'nai B'rith work locally.

Archie Ellenbogen's wife, Dorothy Ellenbogen, served as president of the Beckley Sisterhood from 1950 to 1951. From 1953 to 1955 she served as corresponding secretary of the Sisterhood.

Children: Peter E.; James

SAUL FORTUNOFF. Dr. Saul Fortunoff (born at New York City, on March 5, 1905) came to Beckley from Butler, Pa., in January, 1951, to become chief of the medical service at the Beckley Veterans Administration Hospital, which position he still held in 1955. After studying at Columbia University, in New York City, from 1921 to 1924, he received his M.D. degree from the New York Medical College in 1928, and from 1930 to 1942 he practised medicine in New Rochelle, N. Y. He then entered the United States Army, serving as a physician there from 1942 to 1946, and in 1946 he entered the Veterans Administration service, serving as a physician on the staff of the V. A. Hospital in Butler, Pa., from 1947 to 1950.

Dr. Saul Fortunoff is a Service Fellow of the American Medical Association, and a trustee of the Beckley Lodge of the B'nai B'rith Emergency Fund. Since his arrival in Beckley he has been active in the Red Cross blood bank collections in Raleigh County.

Saul Fortunoff's wife, Dorothy Baer Fortunoff, was, in 1954-1955, the corresponding secretary of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah, and still served in June, 1955. In April, 1953, she was elected financial secretary of the Beckley Sisterhood, for the years 1953-1954, and she was re-elected for one-year terms in April, 1954, and in April, 1955.

In the fall of 1955, Dorothy B. Fortunoff was re-elected for a 1-year term (1955-1956) as corresponding secretary of Hadassah.

Son: Stephen

NORA BELDNER FRANKS. Mrs. Nora Beldner Franks (born in Detroit, Michigan) moved with her parents, at an early age, to Jamestown, N. Y., and in 1925 the family settled in Huntington, W. Va. Mrs. Franks entered the federal government service in 1940 at Logan, W. Va., serving until 1948 there with the Social Security Board, Old Age and Survivors Insurance. Then she was transferred to the Charleston, W. Va., Social Security Office, as assistant manager, working there for four years, until 1952. In Charleston she received (in early 1951) a meritorious award for outstanding work in her department; she was also an active worker in the National Council of Jewish Women in Charleston. From 1952 until July, 1954, she served as manager of the Social Security Office in Welch, W. Va., and at the latter time she was transferred to Beckley as manager of the local Social Security Office. She still held this position in Beckley in June, 1955. Mrs. Franks is the only woman who is a Social Security manager in West Virginia.

Mrs. Franks is active in the work of the Beckley Sisterhood, as she was also in Welch. In 1954 and in 1955 she served as a co-chairman of the Sisterhood Planning Committee. In 1955 she was the only Jewish resident of Beckley who was engaged in United States government work.

In October, 1955, Mrs. Nora B. Franks was elected the secretary and a member of the board of directors of the West Virginia Welfare Conference.

In October, 1955, she was still serving as co-chairman (with Mrs. Anne K. Harvit) of the Sisterhood Planning Committee.

In later October, 1955, Mrs. Nora B. Franks, together with Mrs. Rose Y. Pickus, served as the committee or trustees who laid the groundwork for the organization of the Beckley Golden Age Club (for persons 60 years of age and older), which was formed in Beckley at that time, under the auspices of the Beckley Woman's Club.

*JOSEPH FREED. Joseph Freed (born at Baltimore, on April 20, 1896), a brother of David Freed, first came to Beckley in 1915, from Baltimore, and until 1918 he was employed as a salesman in Nathan and Louis Pickus' original department store, at the corner of Main St. and Heber St., where Murphy's department store now is. He came back to Beckley from Logan, W. Va., in 1936, as the manager of the Beckley Embee's Store, taking his brother's place. With the exception of several of the World War II years, when he took charge of the Logan and Montgomery, W. Va., stores of the Embee (Margolis Brothers) firm, at the time when their managers were in the armed forces, Joseph Freed lived in Beckley and worked continuously as manager of the Embee Store from 1936 to January, 1955, when he was transferred to Parkersburg, W. Va., to open up and serve as manager of the firm's new store in the latter city.

*MARC L. FRONT. Marc L. Front (born at Wheeling, W. Va., on January 3, 1903; died at Beckley, on December 10, 1952) came to Beckley from Wheeling on May 1, 1942, and worked from then until October 1, 1951, as assistant manager of the President Hotel, with his brother-in-law, Nathan Matz. From then until March, 1952, he worked as a bookkeeper for the Peerless Packing Company, in Beckley, and then joined the firm of R. J. Lucas Company (tire store) as a salesman, working there until several months before his death.

Wife: Dora Caplan Front

Children: Jack; Sharon Lee

ABRAHAM GELLAR. Dr. Abraham Gellar (born in Stara-Constantinov, Province of Wolin [Volhynia], the Ukraine, Russia, on October 30, 1901) came to the United States with his mother in 1907. (His father had come to this country previously, in 1904 or 1905.) The Gellar family settled in New York City. Abraham Gellar graduated from the College of the City of New York, in 1922 (B.S. degree), and from the School of Medicine, the University of Maryland, at Baltimore, in 1927 (M.D. degree). He interned at the German Hospital, in Brooklyn, N. Y., from 1927 to 1929,

and then entered private practice in Brooklyn (1929-1941). From 1941 to 1945 he served with the United States Army as a physician, with the Army Medical Corps, with the rank of captain. From 1945 to 1948 he did post-graduate work at the New York Polyclinic and New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. Then, in August, 1948, he entered the Veterans Administration service, serving at Veterans Administration hospitals in Knoxville, Iowa, and in Butler, Pa., before coming to the Beckley V. A. Hospital in October, 1951. He was still serving as a physician at the last-named V. A. Hospital in 1955.

In early 1955, Dr. Abraham Gellar was appointed a major in the United States Army Reserve.

Wife: Mildred Cable Gellar

***ABRAHAM GOLDSTEIN.** Abraham ("Al") Goldstein, the brother of Irving Goldstein (born at Brooklyn, N. Y., in 1912), came to Beckley from Brooklyn in 1949, and was a customers salesman, selling clothing and house furnishings on credit. After living and working in Beckley for two years, he returned to Brooklyn, where he entered the furniture business, in late 1951.

Wife: *Helen Speller Goldstein

Daughter: *Beth Jane

MORRIS HOCHMAN. Morris Hochman (born at Zomechov, Province of Podolsk, Russia, on December 25, 1898) left Russia in 1921 and emigrated to the United States, settling in New York City. He came to Beckley from New York City in 1938, and at first he worked for his brother-in-law, Charles Stromberg, as a salesman for the Leader Furniture Company, on Prince St., until 1946. He then went into business in Whitesville, W. Va., together with M. Edward Harvit and Herbert E. Cohen, as the Hub Furniture Store. In 1951 this partnership was dissolved, and Morris Hochman went into business for himself, in Beckley, under the name of the King Home Furnishing Company, which he was still conducting in 1955.

In April, 1948, Tillie M. Hochman, the wife of Morris Hochman, became a charter member of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah.

Wife: Tillie Morayniss Hochman

Children: Samuel; Hannah H. Selden; *Harry

SAMUEL HOCHMAN. Samuel ("Sam") Hochman (born on February 2, 1921, at sea, on the S. S. "Manoa," near the Azores Islands, while his parents were coming from their native Russia to the United States to settle), the son of Morris Hochman, came to Beckley with his parents from New York City, in 1938, and at first worked for his uncle, Charles Stromberg, as a salesman for the Leader Furniture Company, located on Prince St., until 1943. In the latter year, he entered the United States Army, serving until 1946, and then he returned to Beckley, going into business for

himself as the Capitol Home Furnishing Company, which business he was still conducting in 1955. In 1954 he also became a special agent for the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

In 1948-1950 Sam Hochman served as the secretary of Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith, and from 1950 to 1953 he served as its treasurer. In 1953 he became 2nd vice president of the Lodge, and from 1954 to 1955 he was the Lodge's 1st vice president. He also, together with his wife, Zena Y. Hochman, sang for years in the Temple Beth El Choir. He played on the Beth El Temple-B'nai B'rith basketball team in the Beckley Church League from the time it was organized until it was disbanded in November, 1954.

In 1950, Sam Hochman became a member of the American Contract Bridge League, and, together with William Klein, was the winner of state contract bridge tournaments at Beckley, Bluefield, Charleston, Huntington, and Parkersburg. He also gave lectures on contract bridge, and for several years gave private lessons in this field.

Sam Hochman's wife, Zena Y. Hochman, served for four years (1950-1954) as the treasurer of the Beckley Sisterhood, and from 1951 to 1953 she held office as the president of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah. From 1954 to 1955 she was the first vice president of the local Hadassah, and she was still serving in that post in June, 1955.

In April, 1948, Zena Y. Hochman became a charter member of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah. She was re-elected 1st vice president of Hadassah for a one-year term (1955-1956).

Mrs. Samuel Hochman is also known, both locally and on a state-wide level, as an excellent duplicate and contract bridge player of note. She and her husband, Sam Hochman, together with Mr. and Mrs. William Klein, also of Beckley, have played in a number of contract bridge tournaments in Raleigh County and in various cities throughout the state of West Virginia, and in other cities, and have for many years taken an active part in the work and activities of the local Southern West Virginia Bridge League. In April, 1955, Zena Y. Hochman was elected president of the Southern West Virginia Bridge League, for a one-year term.

Children: Alan; Richard; Joel

*ARTHUR HOROWITZ. Arthur Horowitz came to Beckley from Charleston, W. Va., early in 1952, and worked for almost three years, until October, 1954, as the manager of the Star Clothing Store, on South Kanawha St., between Main and McCreery Sts., in the Beckley Hotel building (owned by his uncle, David Kahn, of Charleston, W. Va.). In the latter year the Beckley branch of the Star Clothing Company was discontinued, and Arthur Horowitz returned to Charleston, to work once again for his uncle in the

Star Clothing Store there. While he resided in Beckley, Arthur Horowitz was active in the work of the B'nai B'rith.

EDWARD M. KANDELL. Edward M. Kandell (born at New York City, on January 26, 1917) came to Beckley in January, 1946, after his service in the United States Armed Forces. From 1936 to 1940 he served with the New York National Guard, and he served in the regular army of the United States from 1940 to 1946, seeing service during the Second World War. In 1955 he held a reserve commission as a major in the Signal Corps of the United States Army.

Edward M. Kandell, a brother of Mrs. M. Edward Harvit, became the manager of the Howard Clothes Store (not locally owned), at 307 Neville St., in January, 1946, and still held this position in 1955. Active in the Junior Chamber of Commerce in Beckley, he served for three years (1950-1953) as chairman of the Anti-Defamation Committee of Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith. For a number of years he sang in the Temple Beth El Choir for the High Holy Days, and in September, 1955, he was still a member of the Temple Choir.

Wife: Mary

Daughter: Alicia

BENJAMIN KISHONY. Dr. Benjamin Kishony (born in Latvia) emigrated to the United States from his native country about the year 1940 as a result of the anti-Jewish persecutions, and settled in Beckley in 1952, where he became a physician on the staff of Pinecrest Sanitarium, specializing in the treatment of the tuberculous. He was still serving in this position in 1955.

Wife: Eve

Daughter: Rachetta

***SIDNEY LABOVITZ.** Sidney Labovitz came to Beckley in 1942 from Pittsburgh, Pa., and at first worked for the Silver Brand Clothing Store, at 401 Neville St., as a salesman and as assistant manager. He then resumed his old profession of chiropodist (having been graduated from the Chicago College of Chiropody about the year 1935, and having previously practised in other cities as a chiropodist), and served as such for several years until his return to Pittsburgh, where he died in 1951.

Sidney Labovitz's wife, *Esther Labovitz, was active in the work of the Beckley Sisterhood, and sang for a number of years in the Temple Beth El Choir.

CHARLES H. LEVINE. Charles H. Levine (born at Hoosick Falls, N. Y., on March 31, 1891) came to Beckley from Morgantown, W. Va., in 1939 (his original home after he left his birthplace was in New Castle, Pa.), and that same year he entered the scrap iron and metal business; the Raleigh Junk Company, which he founded in that year, was still being conducted by him in 1955,

together with his son, Robert H. Levine, who entered the business in 1946, and who, in late 1954, moved to Charleston, W. Va., from Beckley, to manage the Charleston branch of the firm which had been opened in 1953 at Reed, W. Va.

Charles H. Levine was active in the general charitable field of Beckley, and served for a period as chairman of the United Jewish Appeal drives in Beckley. He was president of Congregation Beth El from 1950 to 1951, and a member of its Board of Directors from 1948 to 1951. He had previously served also as the treasurer of the congregation for one year. In 1950, while he was president (chairman of the Board of Directors) of the congregation, he contributed a sum of money which, together with gifts secured from other persons both in Beckley and out of town, sufficed for the purchase of an electric organ for the Temple, the first which it had ever had.

In late August, 1950, Charles H. Levine, while serving as the president (Chairman of the Board) of Congregation Beth El, was chairman also of a committee of three members (the others were Samuel I. Abrams and Louis J. Fink) which paid a visit to Bluefield, W. Va., and secured the services of Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling as rabbi of the Beckley congregation; at that time Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling was leaving the Bluefield-Princeton Congregation Ahavath Sholom, after serving there for 3 years (1947-1950). Charles H. Levine also assisted in, and provided the initial impulse, under the aegis of the then new rabbi of the Congregation, Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling, for the founding of the Junior Congregation and of the Temple Library (Junior Congregation), and for the setting up of the Sabbath (Saturday) morning religious services which have since then been held regularly in Temple Beth El, conducted by the rabbi and occasionally conducted and participated in by members of the Junior Congregation.

Charles H. Levine is a graduate of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, at Pittsburgh (1913), and of Harvard University (1917).

Charles H. Levine's wife, Violet Greenwald Levine, served as corresponding secretary of the Beckley Sisterhood from 1941-1942, and also as president of the Beckley Sisterhood from 1942 to 1943. She served also as the first president of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah, from 1948 to 1951, and again from 1953 to 1955. In April, 1948, Violet G. Levine became a charter member of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah.

ESTHER LEVINE, a sister of Charles H. Levine, came to Beckley in early 1953, from New Castle, Pa., to become associated with her brother in the Raleigh Junk Company business. In November, 1954, she moved to Charleston, W. Va., to become associated with her nephew, Robert H. Levine, in the conduct of

the Charleston branch of the business, which had been opened near there in 1953 at Reed, W. Va.

Son: Robert H. Levine

***ROBERT H. LEVINE.** Robert H. Levine (born at New Castle, Pa., on July 23, 1923), the son of Charles H. Levine, came to Beckley with his parents in 1939. He saw service in the United States Army during World War II from 1943 to 1945, as a first lieutenant. He was graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute with the B.S. degree in 1945, and in 1946 he entered business with his father in the Raleigh Junk Company. Late in 1954, Robert H. Levine moved to Charleston, W. Va., to take over the management of the Charleston branch of the business, which was established there in 1953, at Reed, W. Va.

Robert H. Levine was extremely active in the work of the B'nai B'rith on a local, statewide, district, and national scale, ever since his return to Beckley from army service in the year 1946. He served as president of Beckley Lodge No. 1360 from 1948 to 1949; as its secretary from 1950 to 1951; as president of the West Virginia State Council of the B'nai B'rith from 1952 to 1954; and in May, 1954, he was elected Committeeman-at-Large for West Virginia of District Grand Lodge No. 3. For a period of years he was an instructor on the staff of the local lodge's Americanism Committee, which helped prepare aliens in Raleigh County for naturalization. He also played for a number of years on the Temple Beth El-B'nai B'rith basketball team in the city Church League, until the team was disbanded in November, 1954.

Robert H. Levine's wife, *Janet Berman Levine, served for a term, from 1948 on, as the first corresponding secretary of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah. Before her marriage she taught for several years in the congregational Religious School.

It is of interest that Janet Berman Levine (the daughter of Nathan Berman, who was the first president of the Beckley Hebrew Association, in 1936) and Robert H. Levine were the first "all-Beckley" Jewish couple to be married in Beckley or in Temple Beth El. Their wedding took place at the Temple on June 29, 1947, with Rabbi Samuel Cooper, of B'nai Jacob Congregation, of Charleston, as the officiant.

Children: *Natalie Jo; *Marilyn Lou; *Caroline Sue

PAUL LEVISON. Dr. Paul Levison (born at Buende, Westphalia, Germany, on March 17, 1896) came to Beckley from Washington, D. C., in June, 1950. He received his M.D. degree from the University of Munich and from the University of Wuerzburg, Germany, and, beginning with June, 1950, he served as a staff physician at Pinecrest Sanitarium in Beckley; in 1955 he was still serving in this position.

Wife: Mary Frances

FRED LEWIN. Fred Lewin (born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1895), the brother-in-law of Eric Rosenbaum, came to the United States from his native Germany in 1937, and for several years lived in New York, where he was employed as a clerk and salesman. In 1951 he moved to Oak Hill, W. Va., where, from 1951 to 1954, he worked as a clerk and salesman for Hugo Bornheim's store and for Edward Saymen's People's Clothing Store. In 1954 he moved to Beckley, at first working as the manager of Herbert E. Cohen's Union Store, and then, early in 1955, going into business for himself as an independent salesman.

Wife: Gertrude Grau Lewin

HARRY LEWIN. Harry Lewin (born at Lipnishok, near Lida, close to Warsaw, Poland, on October 8, 1910) came to Beckley from Logan, W. Va., in September, 1938. Before coming to Logan, he had resided in Pittsburgh for a time after coming to the United States from Poland. In Logan he had worked for two years for the Silver Brand Clothing Store (which is not locally owned), and in Beckley he worked for nine more years for the Silver Brand Clothing Store, until 1947, when he went into business for himself, opening Harry's Men's Shop, at 311 Neville St., which he was still operating in 1955. He became an American citizen several years after his arrival in the United States.

In 1954, Harry Lewin took over a wooded area on Eisenhower Drive, near the State Police headquarters, given by the Kopper Coal Company, and with the aid of prison labor from the Raleigh County Jail, he had the trees cut down, the land cleared off with the help of local contractors, especially Leo and Oscar Vecellio and the Acme Construction Company, and the field cleared as a recreational field and a baseball field for the Babe Ruth Baseball League, which he had helped to promote and organize, and as a recreational center for all the youths of Beckley. In that same year (1954), the Beckley City Council named this recreational field Lewin Field, in honor of Harry Lewin, who also donated the cost of most of the lighting and other features of the field, which is used also for the Beckley Baseball League. In the spring and summer of 1955 Harry Lewin headed a committee which raised funds for, and completed the improvement of, Lewin Field.

In August, 1955, Harry Lewin was elected a member of the Board of Directors of Congregation Beth El, for the year 1955-1956.

Harry Lewin was for years active also in the raising of funds for various United Jewish Appeal drives in Beckley and the area.

MAX LEWIN. Max Lewin (born at Lipnishok, near Lida, close to Warsaw, Poland, on September 20, 1918), the brother of Harry Lewin, came to Beckley in May, 1946, from Germany. He attended the Wilna Polytechnical School in his native country, and graduated as an electrical engineer. In 1955 he was engaged in

building construction, and was head of the Home Modernization Company, in Beckley. Max Lewin became an American citizen in 1953.

***MORRIS MARKOWITZ.** Morris Markowitz came to Beckley from Luray, Va., in 1938, and for three years, until 1941, he worked as the manager of the clothing department of the Modern Furniture Company, on Neville St. In the latter year he left Beckley to work for the Embee Store in Montgomery, W. Va., and from there he went to Ashland, Ky., where he was manager of a clothing store in 1954.

NATHAN MATZ. Nathan Matz (born at Pocahontas, Va., on October 31, 1901, and a lifelong resident of this section of West Virginia) came to Beckley from Bluefield (where his father, Benjamin B. Matz, had resided for many years) in 1938, and in that same year he became the lessee and operator of the President Hotel; he was still operating this hotel in 1955.

A graduate of the University of Chicago (Ph. B. degree, 1923), Nathan Matz became a charter member of the Bluefield Lodge of the B'nai B'rith, while he was residing in Bluefield, and is a member of the Beckley Rotary Club. In April, 1941, he also became a charter member of the Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith, upon its reorganization.

Nathan Matz's wife, Mrs. Rose Caplan Matz, was recording secretary of the West Virginia Federation of Temple Sisterhoods from 1941 to 1942.

Wife: Rose Caplan Matz

Daughter: *Sally Matz Susman

***MAX MELTCHER.** Max Meltcher came to Beckley from Brooklyn, N. Y., in 1944, and worked for the Leader Furniture Company (1944-1946) and for Joseph Haddad's Just-Rite Furniture Store, on Prince St., of which he was also the part owner (1946-1947), and for a short period of time (1947-1949) he was manager and part owner of the Oak Hill branch of the Modern Furniture Company store. In 1949, he moved to Parkersburg, W. Va.

***MORRIS MORGAN (MORGANSTERN).** Morris Morgan came to Beckley from New York City in 1941, and at first he worked as a salesman for the Lewis Furniture Company. In 1944 he removed to Whitesville, W. Va., where, together (until 1949) with Arthur Wolk, he conducted a furniture store, which business he operated until late in 1954, when he moved to Miami Beach, Fla.; his son continued to operate the Whitesville business.

His wife, *Mary Morgan, was active in the Beckley Sisterhood during the three years that they lived in Beckley; in 1941-1942 she served as the financial secretary of the Sisterhood.

*ISADORE REICHENTHAL (Isadore Rich). Isadore Reichenenthal (or, as he often called himself in business, Isadore Rich) (born at Lazansk, Austria [then Austrian Poland], in 1894) came to the United States in 1908. In Beckley, to which city he had moved from Charleston in 1938, Isadore Reichenenthal worked as a salesman of dry goods. He was the brother-in-law of David Arnstein. In April, 1955, Isadore Reichenenthal moved to Norfolk, Va.

Wife: *Sarah Arnstein Reichenenthal (Rich).

ERIC ROSENBAUM. Eric Rosenbaum (born at Buende, Westphalia, Germany, on March 31, 1902) came to the United States from his native Westphalia in September, 1938, and lived for one year at Tarboro, N. C., where he worked as a clerk and bookkeeper in a mercantile establishment. In 1939 he moved to Beckley, where he worked for five years as a bookkeeper for Samuel I. Abrams in the latter's Modern Furniture Store. In 1944 Eric Rosenbaum entered the jewelry business, opening up a jewelry store first on Neville St., and later a jewelry store, which he operated at 209 McCreery St., under the name of Eric's Jewelry Store, until July, 1955. In mid-July, 1955, Eric Rosenbaum moved his jewelry store back to Neville St., at No. 308 Neville St.

Eric Rosenbaum is the older son of Theodore Rosenbaum.

Eric Rosenbaum was president of the Beckley Lodge of the B'nai B'rith from 1950 to 1951; he was re-elected a second time as president, for a one-year term, in April, 1955. He was secretary of the local lodge from 1941 to 1944. He also served as treasurer of the Beckley Hebrew Association from 1947 to 1948.

In August, 1955, Eric Rosenbaum was elected a member of the Board of Directors of Congregation Beth El, for the year 1955-1956.

Wife: Millie Grau Rosenbaum

Children: Thomas; Franklin (twins)

*HANS ROSENBAUM. Hans Rosenbaum (born at Buende, Westphalia, Germany, on June 20, 1904), the brother of Eric Rosenbaum, and the younger son of Theodore Rosenbaum, came to the United States from his native Germany in 1938, and lived in Tarboro, N. C., for a short time, and then in Baltimore. In 1941, he came to Beckley, and worked as a salesman for several business houses; he then opened up a store, as manager, for the Hash Furniture Company in Whitesville, W. Va., retaining this position until 1950, when he went to Washington, D. C., and served until 1954 as an interpreter in German and French for the Federal government. In 1954, he moved to Tarboro, N. C., once again, where he acquired a partnership in the Peter Pan Baby Shop; in June, 1955, he was still engaged in this business in Tarboro. During his residence in Whitesville for some years he was a member of Congregation Beth El, in Beckley.

Wife: *Edith Hirshovitz Rosenbaum

THEODORE ROSENBAUM. Theodore Rosenbaum (born at Halle, Westphalia, Germany, on July 30, 1867), the father of Hans and Eric Rosenbaum, is the oldest Jewish resident in Beckley (1955). His wife, Martha Bornheim Rosenbaum (born at Leopoldshoehe, Lippe, Germany, on December 2, 1876), was, in 1955, the oldest Jewish woman residing in Beckley. Theodore and Martha Bornheim Rosenbaum came to Beckley in 1940 from Tarboro, N. C.; in 1951, at Temple Beth El, they celebrated the golden anniversary of their wedding in 1901. In 1955, Theodore Rosenbaum was the only honorary member of Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith.

Theodore and Martha Bornheim Rosenbaum were, in October, 1955, the oldest (he was then 88 years of age and she was 79 years old) Jewish couple then residing in Beckley, or who ever lived in Beckley. They are the first Jewish couple in the Beckley area who ever celebrated their golden wedding (the 50th anniversary of their marriage, in Germany, in 1901) in the entire history of the congregation and of the community; this golden wedding celebration was observed in Temple Beth El, in May, 1951, with both the congregation and the Beckley Sisterhood participating in the unusual and stirring event.

Children: Eric; *Hans

MILTON RUBENSTEIN. Milton Rubenstein came to Beckley about the year 1936, and worked for the Lewis Furniture Company as a salesman and convasser. He had lived in Mount Hope, W. Va., before that, up to 1935. In 1939 he became a charter member of Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith. Some time after 1940 he left Beckley and settled in Williamson, W. Va. His wife taught in the early Religious School of the community.

Wife: *Selma

JACOB RUBIN. Jacob Rubin (born at Avgostova, Province of Suwalk, Russia, on April 15, 1890) came to the United States in 1911, and after living in New York City for six months, settled in Charleston, W. Va., in 1912. From 1912 to 1932, at Charleston, he operated a clothing store and a shoe store, successively. From 1932 to the present (1955) he has resided partly in Charleston and partly in Beckley, being occupied as a clothing salesman. He has been a member of B'nai Jacob Congregation, in Charleston (Conservative), since 1912, and he joined the Chevra Kaddisha of Charleston in 1914. Beginning with the year 1917, Jacob Rubin served 16 (not consecutive) terms as secretary of the Chevra Kaddisha of Charleston, and in 1955 he was still serving in that position. In 1949 he became a member of Congregation Beth El, in Beckley. Jacob Rubin wrote the article on the history of the Charleston Chevra Kaddisha which was published in the *Dedication Journal* of the B'nai Jacob Synagogue (1890-1950), of Charleston, W. Va.

HAROLD RUDIN. Harold Rudin (born at Pittsburgh, Pa., on April 8, 1915) came to Beckley from Parkersburg, W. Va., in 1949, and entered the Barrack's Wholesale (auto) Supply Company's business, at 1509 South Kanawha St., as manager; in 1955, he still held this position.

In April, 1951, Harold Rudin was elected president of Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith, serving until May, 1953, and from 1953 to 1954 he served as monitor and also as trustee (1953-1955) of the lodge. He is very active in B'nai B'rith work. In October, 1955, he was still serving as a trustee of the lodge, and was active in the work of several of its important committees.

Wife: Zeena Barrack Rudin

Daughter: Vicki

HERMAN SAMANS. Herman Samans (born at Philadelphia, Pa., on June 17, 1906) came to Beckley from Welch, W. Va., in June, 1944, and at first worked for the Berman Jewelry Store (which is not locally owned) until 1950. In that year he entered business for himself in nearby Sophia, W. Va., opening a music store, which he transferred to Beckley in 1952, establishing it on a more extended scale as the Beckley Wholesale Mart; this business he was still operating in 1955. For about two years this store was located on McCreery St., between South Fayette and South Heber Sts.

In 1947 to 1948 Herman Samans served as the vice president of Congregation Beth El. He also served for some time as an officer of the local B'nai B'rith lodge. Herman Samans, together with his daughter, Beverly Samans, who, in 1954-1955, was a senior at Woodrow Wilson High School, sang for many years in the Temple Beth El Choir for the high holyday services and for special services and occasions.

Herman Samans' wife, Minnie Gealt Samans, served as president of the Beckley Sisterhood from 1946 to 1947, and again from 1949 to 1950. In 1954 to 1955 she served as one of the three co-chairmen of the Beckley Sisterhood. She was also, from 1948 on, the first recording secretary of the Beckley Hadassah.

Beverly Samans, the daughter of Herman Samans, after her graduation from Woodrow Wilson High School, at Beckley, entered the Boston Conservatory of Music, in September, 1955, to obtain a degree and to study as a musical therapist.

Daughter: Beverly

EDWARD SAYMEN. Edward Saymen (born at Newport, Ky., on April 1, 1919), the son-in-law of Jack Binderman, Sr., came to Beckley from Cincinnati, where he had lived for many years, in July, 1940, and at first worked for his father-in-law as a salesman in the People's Credit Store, until 1947. He then became a partner, together with his father-in-law and with his brother-in-law, William Binderman, in the People's Credit Store, in Beckley, until July,

1950, at which time he bought the People's Credit Store, in Oak Hill, W. Va., conducting this business thereafter under the name of People's Clothing Store, Inc.

When his uncle, Isadore Binderman, left Beckley, in 1947, Edward Saymen became the president of the Beckley Lodge of the B'nai B'rith, of which he had been vice president previously, and served in this position until 1948. In 1954 he was again elected an officer of the Lodge, and still held this post in 1955. From 1954 to 1955 he conducted an Americanism course for a group of aliens in Oak Hill, in cooperation with Morris S. Wender of that city, under the auspices of the B'nai B'rith lodge of Beckley.

In August, 1955, Edward Saymen was elected a member of the Board of Directors of Congregation Beth El, for the year 1955-1956. In September, 1955, his son, Dennis G. Saymen, was elected treasurer of the Junior Congregation of Temple Beth El, to serve for the year 1955-1956.

In early 1954, Edward Saymen was elected treasurer of the B'nai B'rith Emergency Fund, for an indefinite term of office, and he was still serving in this post in October, 1955. At the same time, he was elected to a four-year term as a director of this Emergency Fund.

In October, 1955, Edward Saymen was elected the adult adviser to the Temple Beth El Youth Group, to serve for the period from October, 1955, to October, 1956.

Edward Saymen and Ruth B. Saymen have been serving, since September, 1953, as two of the substitute teachers of the congregational Religious School, teaching classes on occasions when the rabbi is away from the city, or when one of the other teachers is absent.

Edward Saymen and his wife, Ruth Binderman Saymen, sang in the Temple Beth El Choir for a number of years, and both taught in the congregational Religious School for three years (1950-1953). In 1954 Ruth B. Saymen was elected treasurer of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah, for the year 1954-1955, and was still serving in this position in June, 1955.

Dennis G. Saymen, whose Bar Mitzvah was held in Temple Beth El on Friday night, October 14, 1955, with Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling officiating, was in May, 1955, elected as treasurer of the Temple Beth El Youth Group, to serve until May, 1956. He had previously served for several years as either the librarian or the assistant librarian of the Junior Congregation's Temple Library, and as chairman of its Committee on Constitution. In October, 1955, he was serving as chairman of the Junior Congregation's Book Committee.

In April, 1948, Ruth B. Saymen became a charter member of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah. In 1955 she was re-elected treasurer of Hadassah, for a 1-year term (1955-1956).

Children: Dennis G.; Jeri Lynn

*CALVIN J. SCHILDKRAUT. Calvin J. Schildkraut (born at Brooklyn, N. Y., on December 11, 1925) came to Beckley from Brooklyn, N. Y., in December, 1952, and worked for a total of two years as the manager of one of the Charm and Wise ladies' ready-to-wear shops (not locally owned). Before coming to Beckley he had served in the United States Army (the infantry) for two years and a half, seeing service in both the European and Pacific theatres of operation, as well as in Japan, and then returned to Brooklyn, where he entered business. In March, 1954, Calvin Schildkraut left Beckley and, after a brief stay in Little Rock, Ark., where he was engaged in the ladies' ready-to-wear business, he settled in Milwaukee, Wis., where he became the manager of one of the stores of the ladies' ready-to-wear firm of Miller-Wohl Three Sisters in W. Allis, Wis.

Calvin Schildkraut served as a teacher, for over a year (1952-1954), in the Beth El Temple Religious School, and also as an officer of the local B'nai B'rith Lodge. He played for a year on the Temple Beth El-B'nai B'rith basketball team in the Beckley Church League.

Wife: *Roslyn Wertheimer Schildkraut

Daughter: *Julie (born in Beckley, in November, 1953)

MAURICE SELDEN. Maurice Selden (born at Baltimore, Md., on June 30, 1920) came to Beckley from Baltimore in 1948, and after working for a short period of time with his brother-in-law, Sam Hochman, in the retail credit business, he entered business for himself as the Quality Home Furnishings Company. He was still engaged in this business in 1955.

Maurice Selden taught for two years (1951-1953) in the Temple Beth El Religious School, and he also held several offices in the local B'nai B'rith Lodge. Together with his wife, Hannah Hochman Selden, he sang for a number of years in the Temple Beth El Choir. He also played for several years on the Temple Beth El-B'nai B'rith basketball team in the Beckley Church League. Hannah H. Selden also served as 2nd vice president of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah from 1954 to 1955. A graduate nurse, before her marriage and, after her marriage, up to 1951, she worked for years as supervisor of nurses at the Raleigh General Hospital, in Beckley.

In September, 1955, Hannah H. Selden was elected president of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah, for a one-year term, 1955 to 1956. She also taught for two years in the congregational Religious School.

Children: Sheila Jane; Stanley Ira

ABRAHAM I. SHINEDLING. Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling (born at Menominee, Mich., on September 8, 1897), the rabbi of Congregation Beth El, of Beckley, since September 1, 1950, is a graduate of the Hebrew Union College, in Cincinnati, Ohio, where

he was ordained as a Rabbi on June 10, 1920; of the University of Cincinnati (B.A. degree, June, 1919); and of Columbia University, in New York City (M.A. degree, in education and in classical languages, in June, 1928). Before that, he had taken post-graduate work in classical languages at the University of Georgia, at Athens, Ga. (1923-1924). Before coming to Beckley in September, 1950, he had served as the rabbi of Congregation Ahavath Sholom, in Bluefield, W. Va., from 1947 to 1950, and previously to that he had served congregations as rabbi in Selma, Ala., and Alexandria, La. (1943-1947).

After his ordination at the Hebrew Union College, in June, 1920, he had served congregations in Joplin, Mo.; Marshall, Tex.; Athens, Ga.; and Goldsboro, N. C. (1920-1926), as an active rabbi.

In 1953, Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling was elected secretary of the Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith, and was re-elected for the term 1955-1956. He also served two one-year terms (1953 and 1954) as the secretary-treasurer of the Beckley Ministerial Association. Since his arrival in Beckley in September, 1920, he had served congregations in Joplin, Mo.; Marshall, Tex.; Administration Hospital, under the auspices of the National Jewish Welfare Board, and from September, 1951, to August, 1954, he served also as the Jewish chaplain at the Federal Reformatory for Women, at Alderson, W. Va., under the auspices of the Synagogue Council of America and of the Beckley Sisterhood and of the West Virginia State Federation of Sisterhoods, which latter two organizations sponsored his monthly or twice-monthly visits to the "only federal prison for women in the United States," as the institution at Alderson is often described.

In January, 1953, Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling was elected secretary of the B'nai B'rith Emergency Fund, and was still serving in that position in September, 1955. In September, 1955, he was still serving as a member of the Cemetery Committee of Congregation Beth El, which was established in 1952.

Before re-entering the active congregational rabbinate, in September, 1943, as a replacement rabbi for a rabbi called to serve as a chaplain in the United States Armed Forces, Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling had done prison and reformatory and hospital and institutional and chaplaincy work in New York City and in Westchester County, under the auspices of the Westchester County Sections of the National Council of Jewish Women (1932-1943), and from 1928 to 1943 he had been a contributor to, and revision and associate editor of, the *Universal Jewish Encyclopedia*, which was published by the Colonial Press, in ten volumes, in New York City from 1939 to 1943. His name and biography are recorded in *Who's Who in World Jewry* (New York, 1955). From 1946 to 1955 Rabbi Abraham Shinedling also lectured at various colleges, universities, and Christian denominational summer camps on Judaism and Jewish subjects, under the auspices

of the Jewish Chautauqua Society, of Cincinnati and (later) New York City. In February, 1955, he was appointed a member of Governor William C. Marland's Committee for National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week.

In September, 1952, Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling was appointed to the staff of the American Jewish Archives, which is affiliated with the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, at Cincinnati, Ohio, as assistant editor and translator; he still retained this position in September, 1955.

In August, 1955, the name of Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling (also that of Isadore R. Wein) was selected for inclusion in the volume *American Jews: Their Lives and Achievements [Who Is Who in American Jewry]*, scheduled for publication in 1956 under the auspices of the American Jewish Literary Foundation, of New York, in connection with the recent celebration (1954) of the 300th anniversary of the settlement of Jews in the United States of America (1654-1954).

In early October, 1955, Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling was appointed a member of the Committee on Publications of the Alumni Association of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, for a two-year term, by Rabbi Ariel L. Goldberg, of Richmond, Va., president of that Association.

In May, 1953, Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling was elected a representative, as well as a member of the Board of Directors, of the Raleigh County Social Welfare Assembly, for a 3-year term.

Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling's wife, Helen Lowenstein Shinedling, has served as the organist and choir leader of Temple Beth El since September, 1950, and during that same period of time she has been a teacher in the Temple Beth El Religious School. From 1951 to 1955 she was State Chairman of Religion for the West Virginia Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, acting as arranger and chairman of the several annual Institutes for Religious School Teachers which were held (1951-1955) under the auspices of the State Federation of Temple Sisterhoods at Parkersburg (twice), Huntington (twice), and Charleston (she held this position until October 1955); and local chairman of religion for the local Sisterhood (1950-1955); also Interfaith Chairman of the local Sisterhood (1950-1955) and its Youth Chairman (1952-1953). She also teaches a Hebrew class on Saturday mornings before the religious services during the Religious School term. In 1954 she was elected treasurer of the Beckley League of Women Voters, and was re-elected to this position in early 1955.

In October, 1955, she was appointed Interfaith Chairman of the State Sisterhood Federation for 1955-1957.

Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling's son, SIDNEY T. SHINEDLING, became a teacher in the Religious School of the Congregation in September, 1955, after his confirmation at the Temple on Shabuoth, May 27, 1955.

Son: Sidney Terence

H. VIOLA SHLICKERMAN. Dr. H. Viola Shlickerman (born at Buffalo, N. Y., on March 7, 1892) came to Beckley from Alderson, W. Va., on April 1, 1945. A graduate of the University of Buffalo Dental Department, in 1914, she served from December, 1937, until April 1, 1945, as acting assistant dental surgeon in the United States Public Health Service at the Federal Reformatory for Women, at Alderson, W. Va. In Beckley, in 1945, she became a dentist on the staff of Pinecrest Sanitarium (a state institution), which position she still occupied in 1955.

From 1951 to 1952 Dr. H. Viola Shlickerman served as the president of the Beckley Sisterhood, and before that she had served (1946-1948) as its corresponding secretary. She is a member of the Ethics Committee of the New River Dental Society, and a member of that Society, as well as of the West Virginia Dental Association and of the American Dental Association.

Dr. H. Viola Shlickerman's son, Dr. Leo Sherman, resided in Beckley for about a year (1952-1953) as a physician with a local coal company (in Raleigh County), and then settled in Wilmington, Delaware, as a physician in private practice.

BERNARD E. SILVERMAN. Dr. Bernard E. Silverman (born at Kishinev, Russia, on July 4, 1902) came to Beckley from Chicago in 1939. (He was brought to the United States by his parents in 1904 or 1905.) He was graduated from the Illinois College of Chiropody in 1926, with the degree of D.S.C. (Doctor of Surgical Chiropody and Orthopedics), and he had practised his profession in Chicago for thirteen years (1926-1939) before coming to Beckley to settle in 1939. In 1955 Dr. Bernard E. Silverman was still practising his profession in Beckley, as well as making periodic visits as a chiropodist to Hinton, West Virginia; he was the only chiropodist in Raleigh County and in the territory surrounding Raleigh County for many years. He formerly made monthly professional visits also to Welch, W. Va. (up to 1952), Williamson (up to 1951), Logan (up to 1943), and Mullens (from 1939 to 1941). In 1941, he became a charter member of the reorganized B'nai B'rith Lodge.

Dr. Bernard E. Silverman sang for many years in the Beth El Temple Choir. He is noted as a chess player in Beckley and Raleigh County chess circles, and has for years been a member of The Beckley Chess Club (since 1948). Since 1933 Dr. Bernard E. Silverman has been a Past Noble Grand in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Dr. Bernard E. Silverman was, on October 12, 1955, elected treasurer of Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith, to serve until May, 1956, and to replace the previous treasurer, Max H. Wender, who resigned at that time due to ill-health.

Dr. Bernard E. Silverman's wife, Faye Rosen Silverman, was president of the Beckley Sisterhood from 1941 to 1942 and from 1944 to 1946, and also from 1948 to 1949, and played an active

role in arranging for the two State Sisterhood conventions held in Beckley, on October 10-13, 1942, and on October 11-12, 1953, as co-chairman. From 1939 to 1943 she was a teacher in the Temple Beth El Religious School. From 1942 to 1944, and from 1947 to 1949, she was a member of the Board of Directors, Raleigh County Chapter of the American Red Cross, and from 1951 to 1954 she was the local representative of the National Jewish Welfare Board, Women's Division, on the Beckley VAWS.

Dr. Bernard E. Silverman's son, HOWARD AYRES SILVERMAN (born at Chicago, on May 31, 1931), was graduated as a physician with the M.D. degree from the Medical School of Virginia, at Richmond, Va., May 31, 1955. He received the A.B. degree from the University of West Virginia in 1952, and the B.S. in 1953 from the same university. In 1955 he began his year of internship at the Harrisburg Hospital, in Harrisburg, Pa. (1955-1956). In 1950 Howard A. Silverman was elected an honorary member of the Alpha Epsilon Delta National Premedical Honor Society. He taught for two years in the Temple Beth El Religious School (1946-1948).

*JOAN MAE SILVERMAN (born at Chicago, Illinois, on March 6, 1934), the daughter of Dr. Bernard E. Silverman, after graduation from Woodrow Wilson High School, in Beckley, in 1951, attended the University of West Virginia, at Morgantown, from 1951 to 1953, and then Ohio State University, at Columbus, Ohio, from 1953 to 1955, from which she was graduated in June, 1955, with the B.S. degree, having majored in personnel management. She was active in the first Temple Beth El Youth Group for several years, and also taught in the Congregation Beth El Religious School from 1948 to 1950. On September 4, 1955, she was married to Martin S. Bogarad, of Weirton, W. Va., in Temple Beth El, with Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling officiating.

Children: *Howard Ayres; *Joan Mae

*ARTHUR STERN. Arthur Stern came to Beckley from New York City in 1943, and worked as a medical technician in the laboratory of Pinecrest Sanitarium until 1948. In that year he left for Springfield, Ohio, where he became head technician in a hospital.

Arthur Stern's wife, *Rachel Stern, who was a nurse at Pinecrest Sanitarium, was active in the work of the Beckley Sisterhood during the five years of their residence in Beckley.

*NORMAN STOKEN. Norman Stoken came to Beckley from Chicago, Illinois, in 1938 or 1939, and became a reporter on the staff of the Beckley Newspapers. He remained in Beckley until 1942, when he joined the United States Army, and saw service in the Second World War, until 1944. After the end of his war service, he did not return to Beckley, but went back to Chicago, where he resumed his newspaper work. As a reporter, Norman Stoken covered the Widen, W. Va., mine trial in 1950, after he had left Beckley.

CHARLES STROMBERG. Charles Stromberg (born at Djourin, Province of Podolia, Russia, in 1894), a brother of Isadore Binderman and of Jack Binderman, Sr., came to Beckley from Shamokin, Pa., in 1939. Soon thereafter he opened the Leader Furniture Company, on Prince St., near North Heber St., which he was still operating in 1955, for many years in partnership with his elder son, Harry Stromberg, who became associated with his father in that business in 1939. (The younger son of Charles Stromberg, Sidney Stromberg, was associated with his father in the furniture business for several years, but left Beckley in 1953.)

In 1940, Charles Stromberg, then a member of the committee of Congregation Beth El appointed to secure a permanent rabbi, succeeded in obtaining the services of the first permanent rabbi whom the Jewish community of Beckley had ever had; this was Rabbi Maxwell Berger, who served as the rabbi of the congregation from 1940 to 1942.

In April, 1948, Gussie M. Stromberg, the wife of Charles Stromberg, became a charter member of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah.

Wife: Gussie Morayniss Stromberg

Children: *Harry; *Sidney

***HARRY STROMBERG.** Harry Stromberg (born in Guelph Township, Wellington County, Ontario, Canada, on June 21, 1920), the elder son of Charles Stromberg, joined the United States Navy in 1942, serving until 1947, and seeing service during the Second World War. He had entered business with his father in the Leader Furniture Store in 1939, and after the war, in 1947, he again rejoined this business, remaining in it until January, 1955, when he and his family moved to Albany, N. Y.

Harry Stromberg had come to Beckley with his parents in the year 1939, from Shamokin, Pa.

Harry Stromberg sang in the Temple Beth El Choir for a number of years, and, at times, when there was no permanent rabbi, served as reader of the religious services. He was known locally as a violinist and musician of note, and played for years in a local dance orchestra.

Wife: *Shirley Fine Stromberg

Children: *Esther Lee; *Averie Faye

***HENRY WAITZMAN.** Henry Waitzman came to Beckley from Baltimore in 1936 or 1937, and for a little more than three years he worked as a clerk for Louis J. Fink in the Hub Store. He left Beckley for Baltimore about the year 1940, and he was still residing and engaged in business in Baltimore in 1955.

***MILTON WATZMAN.** Milton Watzman (born at Martins Ferry, Ohio, on April 8, 1918), a nephew of Mrs. Nathan Matz and of Mrs. Marc L. Front, came to Beckley from Wheeling in 1937, and

for three years (1937-1940) conducted a cigar stand at the President Hotel, which was leased and managed by his uncle, Nathan Matz. From 1940 to 1943 he did government work in Panama, and in 1943 he entered the United States Army, serving in the infantry until 1945, when he went to Wellsburg, W. Va., where, in partnership with his brother, Sanford Watzman, he opened a men's clothing store. Milton Watzman was still engaged in this business in 1954, and residing in nearby Steubenville, Ohio.

ISADORE R. WEIN. Isadore R. Wein (born at Harrison, N. J., in 1914) settled in Beckley in 1940, after having worked as a pharmacist and conducted a pharmacy at Irvington, N. J., as a registered pharmacist for several years; his original home was Newark, N. J. Upon his arrival at Beckley in 1940, he entered the Modern Furniture Store business with his father-in-law, Samuel I. Abrams, and his brother-in-law, A. David Abrams, taking over this business, including its other stores in Mount Hope, Sophia, and Oak Hill, W. Va., together with his brother-in-law, in 1944, the year when Samuel I. Abrams retired.

From practically the very moment of his arrival in Beckley, in 1940, Isadore R. Wein became and remained deeply interested in the work of the Beckley Hebrew Association, the Religious School of the Temple, and all branches of civic and philanthropic work in Beckley and throughout Raleigh County. For a number of years he was connected with the Raleigh County Cancer Society as president and director; he served as the chairman of the Civitans Dental Health Committee from 1948 until 1955, when he was still serving in this post; as vice president of the Beckley Civitans Club in 1950 and 1954 (he was re-elected 1st vice president of the Civitans Club in May, 1955), and as a member of its board of Directors from 1947 to 1951 and again from 1953 to 1954. He taught for several years in the Temple Beth El Religious School; and served as president of Temple Beth El from 1945 to 1946, and again (as chairman of the Board of Directors) from 1951 to 1955. He was also the secretary-treasurer of the congregation from 1948 to 1955, and officiated semi-officially as minister and officiant at religious services of various kinds whenever the community was without the services of a permanent rabbi during the decade from 1940 to 1950, or in the absence from the city of the student rabbi, or during the summertime. In this capacity, during this decade, Isadore R. Wein officiated at a number of confirmation and Bar Mitzvah ceremonies. He played for a number of years on the Temple Beth El-B'nai B'rith basketball team in the Beckley Church League. From 1949 to 1950 he served as president of Beckley Lodge No. 1360 of the B'nai B'rith. He was also a leader in the work of the United Jewish Appeal in Beckley for a number of years in the 1940's. Through his encouragement and activity, thoroughgoing repairs and the installation of new lights and a new heating unit were carried

out in the Temple building in the summer of 1954, with the financial assistance of the Beckley Sisterhood and the B'nai B'rith local lodge.

In August, 1955, Isadore R. Wein was re-elected a member of the Board of Directors of the Congregation, for the year 1955 to 1956, and at the same time he was re-elected also the Chairman of the Board as well as secretary-treasurer of the Congregation.

In January, 1953, Isadore R. Wein was elected the chairman of the B'nai B'rith Emergency Fund, and still held this position in 1955, as well as being elected a trustee of this Fund for a four-year term (1953-1957). In 1955, he was still serving as a member of the Congregation Beth El Cemetery Committee, which, in May, 1954, set up and dedicated the new Beth El Congregation Cemetery in Sunset Memorial Cemetery.

In September, 1953, Isadore R. Wein was elected a representative of, and a member of the Board of Directors of, the Raleigh County Social Welfare Assembly, for a 3-year term.

It is of more than passing interest that in September, 1942, and again in September, 1947, when the Congregation was unable to secure the services of a part-time or of a permanent rabbi, Isadore R. Wein conducted High Holy Day services and preached the sermons for Rosh Hashanah and for Yom Kippur. For his devotion and service he was honored by an entry in the Congregational *Book of Life*.

Alan J. Wein, the eldest son of Isadore R. Wein, entered the Mercersburg Academy, at Mercersburg, Pa., on September 18, 1955, to take the three-year college-preparatory course. He had served as president and in other offices of the Junior Congregation of Temple Beth El. His Bar Mitzvah was held in the Temple on Saturday morning, December 25, 1954, with Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling as the officiant.

Isadore R. Wein's name and biography are included in the *Who's Who in World Jewry*, which was published at New York City in the spring of 1955.

In April, 1948, Jeanette A. Wein became a charter member of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah.

Wife: Jeanette Abrams Wein

Children: Alan J.; Robert Michael; Gary Abrams Wein

MORRI R. WEIN. Morri R. Wein (born at Newark, N. J., in 1923), the brother of Isadore R. Wein, came to Beckley from his native Newark in 1946, after four years' service in the Signal Corps of the United States Army (1941-1945), and after seeing service in both the European and the Pacific theatres of war. In 1946, he entered the employ of the Modern Furniture Company, as manager of the clothing department; he still held this position in 1955.

Morri R. Wein was for several years (1948-1951) adult adviser to the first Temple Beth El Youth Group. A member of the Beckley Civitans Club, he served as its representative on the

VAVS Committee, and since 1949 he has served as the club's citizenship award committee chairman. He is also a member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Morri R. Wein is known locally for his interest in youth work and activities, both Jewish and general. For several years he served as adult adviser to the first Temple Beth El Youth Group (1948-1951).

*ARTHUR WOLK. Arthur Wolk came to Beckley from Illinois in 1939, and worked for several years for the Lewis Furniture Company. He then left for Whitesville, W. Va., where for several years he was in partnership with Morris Morgan in the furniture business, after which he moved to Charleston, W. Va., about 1949, where he was still living in 1955, engaged in the automobile business.

A brother of Arthur Wolk, by name Murray Wolk, later an optometrist, lived in Beckley for a short period of time about the same time as Arthur Wolk did, and then he removed to Cincinnati. He saw service from Beckley in the United States Armed Forces during World War II.

Arthur and Murray Wolk, presumably, both came to Beckley from Chicago, in 1939, and lived in Beckley until about 1942 or 1943.

LOUIS WOLMAN. Louis Wolman (born at Montreal, Quebec, Canada, on June 10, 1917), the brother of Mrs. Ruth W. Saks, came to Beckley in 1952 from Whitesville, W. Va., where he had been a salesman for several years, after coming to the United States from his native Canada. In Beckley, in 1955, he was still engaged as a salesman, the owner of a retail installment credit business, as well as an insurance agent. He became an American citizen. He served from 1953 to 1955 as an officer of the local B'nai B'rith Lodge No. 1360 (re-elected in April, 1955, for the year 1955-1956).

Louis Wolman's wife, Sarah P. Wolman, taught for about a year in the Temple Beth El Religious School (1952-1953), and in 1954 she was elected treasurer of the Beckley Sisterhood, in which post she was still serving in 1955, after her re-election.

Children: Jack; Marsha A.

2a. Other, Little-Known, Jewish Families and Residents of Beckley

There were 14 other Jewish families or individuals who were resident in Beckley for short periods of time, in most cases for only 2 or 3 years or even less, and who then left the city and the community for other cities, and about whom, therefore, little or nothing is known or remembered today. Most of these Jewish families or residents took little or no active part in the affairs of the Jewish community, and contributed little or nothing to Jewish life and activities in Beckley. However, some brief mention of them ought to be included in this Jewish communal history, especially since some of them (2 or 3) were charter members of the B'nai B'rith Lodge of Beckley, in April, 1939, and since the wives of some of them were charter members (in April, 1948) or members of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah, or members of the Beckley Sister-

hood. There were still others, not listed here, such as Lou Colton, Maurice Mendel, and J. H. Wolfe, whose names have been almost entirely forgotten.

The names of the 14 additional Jewish families or individuals listed below were discovered in lists of past members of the Beckley Sisterhood and Hadassah, and on the Charter Membership list of the B'nai B'rith, Beckley Lodge No. 1360, which was issued in April, 1939 (not reproduced in this volume). Diligent research and careful inquiry by the authors of this volume uncovered only the following meager material, or "facts," about them. These 14 families or individuals are as follows:

Irving Abrams	Harry Jacobson
Mervin Ameles (and Sylvia Ameles)	Edwin Kamen (and Blossom Kamen)
Leonard Applebaum	Jerry Kamen
Edward Berman	Henry Miller
Theodore S. Decker	Samuel M. Milstein (and "Midge" Milstein)
Leonard Fivars	Mrs. Marilyn Rose
Jack Heyman (and Sylvia Heyman)	
Nathan Hirsch	

Careful consultations with such "old-timers" of the Beckley Jewish community as Nathan Pickus, Rose Y. Pickus, Minnie G. Samans, A. David Abrams, Isadore R. Wein, Faye R. Silverman, Harry Seidman, Irving Goldstein, Gussie M. Stromberg, Harry Lewin, Jacob Silverberg, James Pickus, and Zena Y. Hochman have revealed only the following skimpy scraps or bits of data and information about these 14 former members of the Beckley Jewish community and former residents of Beckley, who, as it were, fleetingly came to the Beckley Jewish community, remained, also as it were, only "overnight," and left it, "like ships that pass in the night," or like the proverbial and poetical "Arabs, who fold their tents and silently steal away" (All of them are marked with the asterisk *, because all of them are no longer residents of Beckley.):

***IRVING ABRAMS.** Irving Abrams, a first cousin of A. David Abrams, came to Beckley from Brooklyn, N. Y. (where he was, in all likelihood, born), and lived in Beckley from 1941 to 1942. During this period of time he worked for the Home Credit Clothing Company, of Whitesville, W. Va. In 1942 he went into service with the Armed Forces of the United States. After the end of the Second World War, Irving Abrams did not return to Beckley. In October, 1955, he was working in Brooklyn, N. Y., in a shirt factory.

***MERVIN AMELES.** Mervin Ameles (born about the year 1921, in the United States, exact city unknown) came to Beckley from Boston, Mass., about 1942, and worked for Radio Station WJLS, in Beckley, for about 3 years, as a radio announcer. Thereafter he moved to Huntington, W. Va., where he also worked as a radio announcer. Then he and his wife *Sylvia Ameles, returned to Boston. In October, 1955, he was reported to be living in Hartford, Conn., where he was employed as a salesman of musical records.

In 1948-1949, his wife, *Sylvia Ameles, was a member of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah.

*LEONARD APPLEBAUM. Leonard Applebaum worked for the Silver Brand Clothing Store, in Beckley, as manager, from about 1937 to 1942. He was born in the United States. He then left for service in the United States Army, in World War II, and did not return to Beckley. For several years he was a teacher in the Religious School of Congregation Beth El. In April, 1939, he became a charter member of the Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith.

*EDWARD BERMAN. Edward Berman (born in the United States, exact city unknown) came to Beckley from Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1936, and left for Cincinnati in late 1939, where he was engaged in the furniture business with relatives in October, 1955. In April, 1939, Edward Berman became a charter member of the Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith.

*THEODORE S. DECKER. Theodore S. Decker (born in the United States, exact city unknown) came to Beckley from Chicago, Illinois, in 1948, and in that year he opened up the Decker Clothing Company, a factory located on the Stanaford Road, a few miles from Beckley. After one year, however, due partly to adverse labor conditions, he left Beckley in 1949, and went to live at first in Philadelphia, and then in Chicago, his former home.

Theodore S. Decker's wife, whose first name is no longer recalled, was, in 1948-1949, one of the members of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah.

*LEONARD FIVARS. Leonard Fivars (born in Pittsburgh, Pa., about the year 1910) lived in Beckley from 1937 to 1942, coming here from his native Pittsburgh. During this five-year period he was, alternately, in the employ of the Silver Brand Clothing company, as the store manager. In 1942 he entered the United States Army as a private, and when he was separated from the Army in 1945, after the end of World War II, he had the rank of sergeant. After the end of the War, in 1945, Leonard Fivars came back to Beckley, and again worked for the Silver Brand Clothing company for a time, and in 1948 he moved to Bluefield, W. Va., where he managed the Bluefield branch of the Silver Brand Clothing concern, after a short period of service in Charleston, W. Va., with the same company. In October, 1955, he was living in Chicago, where he was working in a furniture store, having married in the interim. Leonard Fivars' name is incorrectly spelled as Fivers in some of the communal records, and on the Honor Roll — World War II plaque.

*JACK HEYMAN. Jack Heyman and his wife, *Sylvia Heyman, came to Beckley from Baltimore, Md., about the year 1941, and for two years, until 1943, he worked for the Modern Furniture Company. About the latter part of 1942, or early in 1943, he and his wife moved back to Baltimore, where he was operating the H. & B. Manufacturing Company (making breakfast sets), as the owner, in October, 1955.

*Sylvia Heyman joined the Beckley Sisterhood about the year 1941, and in 1946, according to the First Annual Yearbook of the Beckley

Sisterhood, published in 1945-1946, she was listed in that year as a former Sisterhood member who was then living in Baltimore.

*NATHAN HIRSCH. Nathan Hirsch (original home, presumably, New York City) came to Beckley from Norton, Va., on May 1, 1949, and became a watchmaker, watch repairer, and salesman in Max H. Wender's Lincoln Loans Store, on North Heber St. He held this position until September, 1952, and after a short interval he secured employment on the West Virginia Turnpike, with the construction company which was building it then, as an inspector in the engineering department. In September, 1953, he left Beckley and went South with the same construction company, and was working in the same position in one of the Southern states, engaged in the construction of another turnpike, in October, 1955.

Nathan Hirsch's only daughter, *Merryl Hirsch, was, from 1949 to 1953, a pupil in the Religious School of Congregation Beth El.

*HARRY JACOBSON. Nothing is remembered in Beckley about Harry Jacobson except the fact that in April, 1939, he became one of the charter members of the Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith. It is no longer remembered when and from where he came to Beckley; how long he lived in the community; what his trade, occupation, or employment was; when and for what city he left Beckley; whether or not he was married and had children; or the name of his wife, if he was married; and where he was living and what he was doing in 1955.

*EDWIN KAMEN. Edwin Kamen (born in New York City, about 1923), a relative (cousin) of the Charles Stromberg and Jack Binderman, Sr., families, came to Beckley from New York City about the year 1946, and at first worked for Jack and William Binderman in their People's Credit Clothing Store, on Neville St. Then he worked for a short time as a salesman for the Interstate Credit House (the Senak Corporation, with its headquarters in Charleston, W. Va.). Thereafter he was a self-employed salesman for a while. After the death of his wife, Blossom ("Bubbles") Kamen, at Beckley, on May 10, 1949, Edwin Kamen moved to Dayton, Ohio, where he secured employment as an office worker in the chemical and soap factory owned by his uncle; he still held this position at Dayton in October, 1955, and he had also remarried. Blossom Kamen was one of the 35 charter members of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah, in April, 1948.

*JERRY KAMEN. Jerry Kamen (born in New York City, about 1918 or 1919), the older brother of Edwin Kamen, came to Oak Hill, W. Va., from New York City, shortly after the arrival of his brother in Beckley, in late 1946 or early 1947. For about 2 years he worked as clerk and salesman for Joseph Keiserman's People's Credit Clothing Store, in Oak Hill, and then returned to New York City, where he was working, in October, 1955, employed as a construction and building worker. He served in the United States Army for about 3 years, in World War II, before he came to Oak Hill, in late 1946 or early 1947.

In 1948-1949, Jerry Kamen's wife (her first name is now totally unknown) was one of the members of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah.

*HENRY MILLER. Henry Miller, a son of Mrs. Minnie Miller Fink, who married Ruth Fink, a daughter of Louis J. Fink, lived in Beckley for a short time, for about a year or so, in the early post-World War II and late World War II period (about 1945 to 1946 or 1947). In the 1945-1946 roster of Beckley Sisterhood members, the name of Mrs. Henry Miller is found as a member. In late 1946 or early 1947, Henry and Ruth Fink Miller left Beckley, and moved to Baltimore, Md., where he was still residing, and still engaged in business, in October, 1955. He had come to Beckley originally from Baltimore about the year 1945.

*SAMUEL M. MILSTEIN. Samuel M. Milstein, whose original home was, in all likelihood, Hartford, Conn., came to Beckley from Charleston, W. Va., perhaps in 1947, and at first he worked for the Interstate Credit House, of Charleston, for about 2 years, in the Beckley and Charleston districts. For a short time thereafter, he worked for William Binderman in the latter's People's Credit Clothing Store, on Neville St., and in the early part of 1950 he returned to Charleston, where he resided and worked until about the middle of the year 1954; he then returned to Hartford, Conn.

Samuel M. Milstein's wife, *Midge (Margaret or Mildred?) Milstein, became one of the 35 charter members of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah, in April, 1948. She was an active member of the Beckley Sisterhood also, serving from 1947 to 1948 as the recording secretary of the Sisterhood. Mrs. Samuel M. Milstein always insisted on being called by her nickname of "Midge," so that it is not remembered any longer with certainty today whether her actual first name was Mildred or Margaret; both of these names occur several times in the Hadassah and Sisterhood records, and one of them is almost certainly incorrect.

*MRS. MARILYN ROSE. In April, 1948, Mrs. Marilyn Rose was one of the 35 charter members of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah. Her husband, whose first name is now no longer remembered in Beckley, worked as an announcer for Radio Station WJLS. in Beckley, for about a year, having come to Beckley in 1947, and having left before the end of the year 1948.

Authors' Note: Owing to the delay in printing this volume, the authors were enabled to include a number of data concerning the first half of the year 1955. In addition, they have had time to include also some data extending as far as September or October, 1955.

As can be seen from the above account of the biographies and lives of the earlier and later Jewish settlers and residents in Beckley and vicinity, there were, in every decade, a number of Jewish persons who came to Beckley or to the Raleigh County area from other cities, towns, and localities, seeking financial and economic betterment, or joining relatives here already in Beckley, and who then moved away after a short time, contributing little or nothing to the economic, religious,

or cultural welfare or status of the community and congregation, or of the general community at large.

Indeed, what is more surprising in a small and undeveloped Jewish community in which every Jewish family should have counted large and was of extreme importance, as can be seen from some of the dates given in the foregoing presentation, a number of Jewish residents who were living and working in Beckley in 1935-1936, at the time the congregation was officially formed and the synagogue of the community was being built, failed, or refused, or did not see fit to take advantage of the opportunity being presented to them of being charter members of the Beckley Hebrew Association and of having a share in the erection of the synagogue, the only synagogal structure which ever before or since existed in the city of Beckley, and of having the pleasure, the spiritual joy, and the religious satisfaction of having their names inscribed on the stone plaque made at that time containing the names of the twenty-nine charter members of the congregation. This plaque was still, in 1955, in the entrance hall of the Temple, above the inside doors leading to the sanctuary proper. In the same manner, some half-dozen or more of the Jewish families who were living in Beckley in the year 1954-1955 saw fit either not to join the congregation and community, or to withdraw their membership and to secede from the congregation or community in that same year; others withdrew, or failed to become members, in the years preceding 1954, for reasons best known only to themselves.

In addition, there were in the city of Beckley proper at least half a dozen families in which there was intermarriage, the Jewish partner being the husband, and the non-Jewish partner being the wife, which families not only did not become affiliated with the Jewish community and become members of the Temple and of the Beckley Sisterhood and/or the B'nai B'rith Lodge, but also which were rearing their children in the Christian religion, in the various denominations of that faith. In one case, a Jewish girl of the Beckley community intermarried with a non-Jew, and in the year 1955 was rearing her children in her husband's religion. The Beckley Jewish community had a considerable percentage of intermarriage throughout the years of its existence, consisting, in the overwhelming majority of the cases, of marriages of Jewish boys or young men to Christian girls; in a few of these cases (perhaps three or four) the non-Jewish wife accepted the Jewish faith, after the completion of a formal course of instruction for converts and the holding of an actual conversion ceremony.

But, undoubtedly, this phenomenon of non-membership in, or of secession from, and non-participation in, the Jewish community, or of being on the periphery of Jewish cultural, religious, communal and social life, is one which is familiar and usual in every larger or smaller Jewish community in the United States. There would appear to be no cure for this adverse situation at the present time.

However, on the brighter side, it will be seen from this history that many of the earlier and later Jewish settlers in Beckley struck permanent roots in that city, and were still living and active in the community, and in business there, in the middle of the year 1955, knowing and having

known no other permanent home in the course of their lives. The existence of a synagogue, and of a Jewish congregation of fewer than 55 families, in the midst of a city of 22,000 or more inhabitants (about 175 Jewish souls out of a total population of some 22,000 persons, or much less than 1%), is *prima facie* and *de facto* evidence of an intense desire for survival as Jews, and of a strong desire for the survival of Judaism, of a liberal, modern, American form of Judaism. To cite and to paraphrase slightly a sentence from the writings of the distinguished American Jewish historian, Dr. Jacob Rader Marcus, who is the Adolph S. Ochs Professor of Jewish History at the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion, in Cincinnati, Ohio, the continued existence of the Jewish congregation and of its several affiliated institutions in Beckley, and their continued maintenance of their synagogue, “reflect the [successful] attempt of Jews to maintain their religious loyalty in an overwhelmingly non-Jewish environment.” *Hoc opus, hic labor est!*

At the end of June, 1955, by *actual count*, the Jewish population of Beckley and its environs in Mount Hope and Oak Hill, W. Va., inclusive of men, women, and children, totalled 175. If there be included those who are of Jewish birth but are not affiliated at present with the congregation, the total would be about 210. At the peak of Jewish population, in 1952-1953, the total Jewish population of Beckley and vicinity was about 230 persons, of all ages. Surely an infinitesimally small segment of world Jewry, was it not?

And yet the Jewish community of Beckley feels itself definitely and strongly a *part* of the larger Jewish community of West Virginia, with its some 8,500 Jews; a part of American Jewry here in the United States, with its some 5,300,000 Jews; and a part of world Jewry, with its some 12,000,000 adherents. Are we too fatuous in so believing and in so acting? Is not world Jewry, is not world Judaism, a component of all the parts, portions, and fragments, larger or smaller, which exist in all parts of the world, scattered hither and thither, as the poetical phrase has it? Larger or smaller fragments, we are all parts of world Jewry, and of American Jewry, and of our State Jewries. We have the consciousness of our common heritage, the desire to live as Jews within our national country, and we have the strong desire to preserve Jewish religion, Jewish ideals, Jewish culture, Jewish standards of ethics, and the Jewish tradition. New York City *or* Beckley, Chicago *or* Bluefield, Philadelphia *or* Morgantown, Los Angeles *or* Fairmont, Detroit *or* Huntington, Baltimore *or* Charleston, Cleveland *or* Clarksburg, St. Louis *or* Welch, Washington *or* Logan, and Boston *or* Williamson and Parkersburg and Wheeling—we are all, large or small, integral and vitally important parts and portions of world Jewry and of American Jewry, and we contribute or should contribute our share, *ish kefi ochlo ve-ish kefi yecholto*, to the continuance and perpetuation and existence of Judaism and Jewry, *marla omnia circum*. And the same applies to Weirton, W. Va., with its rather good-sized Jewish community of 110 or more Jewish families; to Mount Hope, with its 3 Jewish families; to Oak Hill with its 2; to Montgomery, with its some half-dozen; to Grafton, with its 10; to Martinsburg, Charles Town, and Harper's Ferry, with their small number of Jewish families; to Welch,

with its ten or twelve Jewish families; to Northfork, Keystone, Kimball, and War, with their two or three Jewish families each; to Mullens, with its 2 Jewish residents; to Elkins, with its 2 or 3 Jewish families; and to several other towns or places in the State of West Virginia, in which small numbers of Jews are, or may be, settled and scattered, individually or in very small groups.

Of the original number of charter members of the Beckley Hebrew Association (later called Congregation Beth El) in 1935-1936, i.e., 29, a total of eleven were still living in the Beckley community as active workers, participators, and members in December of the year 1954. Of this original total of 29 charter members, 9 had in the meantime moved away from the Beckley community to other cities, and nine had passed away.

3. The Jewish Settlers and Residents of Sophia, W. Va.

At one time there were four or five Jewish families living in the little town of Sophia, which is about six miles from Beckley, in Raleigh County. However, these Jewish families gradually settled in nearby Beckley, where the business opportunities were incomparably greater, or they left the district entirely. The last Jewish settlers and residents in Sophia, Ben H. Wender and Alfred E. Cohen, transferred their businesses from Sophia to Beckley in the years 1953 and 1954, respectively. Herman Samans, who resided in Beckley but conducted a business in Sophia for a number of years, transferred his business to Beckley in 1952, and renamed it the Beckley Wholesale Mart. In 1955 only the Modern Furniture Company had a branch in Sophia.

The following Jewish families (there were others, too) lived or owned stores at one time or another up to that time, and were members of the Beckley congregation or of the Jewish community. (The names of some of the Jewish residents of Sophia are no longer recalled or obtainable.):

Alfred E. Cohen
Max Fisher
Samuel Fisher
Herman Samans
Ben H. (Hyman) Wender
Max H. Wender

Front View of Temple Beth El, Beckley, W. Va.



CHAPTER III

The History of Congregation Beth El (The Beckley Hebrew Association)

A. The Community in 1921

In 1921, the Jewish community in Beckley, so far as it can now be ascertained from the memory and the recollections of some of the oldest settlers, and in the absence of any congregational or communal records dating back to that time, included the following thirteen families and single men:

Nathan Berman	Nathan Pickus
Louis J. Fink	Jack Plain
Samuel Fisher	Jack Shechtman
Irving Goldstein	Jacob Silverberg
Jack Hart	Max Sager
James Pickus	Samuel Wasserkrug
Louis Pickus	

Jack Plain, Jack Hart, and James Pickus were the single men of the Jewish community at that time. The first name of Jack Plain was all but forgotten, being recalled by only one of the oldest settlers in 1955. In 1927, James Pickus married Naomi Aronson, of Baltimore, Md., the sister-in-law of Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner, of Cleveland, Ohio.

A religious school was begun, in 1921 or 1922, for the instruction of Jewish children, a dozen or more in number, in which individual men or women of the community were the teachers. There was no other Jewish organization in Beckley at that time. The religious school held its sessions at that time mostly in private homes.

B. The First Religious Services, in 1921

In 1921, the first public or communal Jewish religious services ever to be held in Beckley, so far as it is now known and can now be ascertained, were conducted for the High Holy Days, in the month of September. These Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services were held in the old Beckley Presbyterian Church, on South Kanawha St., where the main headquarters of the Beckley Fire Department are now located. A student rabbi from the Hebrew Union College, in Cincinnati, whose name no one any longer remembers, officiated and preached at the services, using the *Union Prayer Book*, perhaps the first time in the history of the Beckley community that the *Union Prayer Book* was used.

These services, which were held in the fall of the year 1921, were (according to the recollections of the oldest Jewish settlers still residing in Beckley in October, 1955) arranged in honor of Mrs. Sana Moskovitch Pickus (Mrs. Mendel Pickus), the widow of Mendel Pickus who had died in Uzda, Province of Minsk, Russia, in the year 1909. Mrs. Sana Moskovitch Pickus was the mother of James, Louis, and Nathan Pickus, and of Mrs. Jacob Silverberg. She had just arrived from the "Old

Country" with the Silverbergs in August, of 1921, who had just been married at Warsaw, Poland, in July, 1921. She was a very religious person, and it was therefore felt by many of her relatives and others of the Jewish families of Beckley that it would be fitting to celebrate her arrival in this country, three years after the end of the First World War, by engaging the services of a student from the Hebrew Union College, in Cincinnati (although, of course, she was very Orthodox in her ways of living and modes of thinking), for the first time in the history of the Beckley Jews, and by holding in Beckley the first Jewish religious services ever to be conducted in the community up to that time.

There is no evidence that these High Holy Day services were ever repeated in any year in Beckley up to 1935. In the years from 1922 up to 1935, it would appear that many, if not most, of the comparatively few Jewish families living in Beckley and in nearby Mount Hope and Oak Hill would go to nearby cities for the High Holy Days, especially to Bluefield and Charleston, in West Virginia, and a few to Baltimore, and possibly also a few to Cincinnati, which is 295 miles northwest of Beckley. There is also no evidence that even a Minyan of ten adult male Jews (the quorum, or minimum, for special religious services of any kind, especially for Kaddish and for Yahrzeit services) was ever held in Beckley before the year 1921, although this is possibly unlikely.

According to the memory of some of the oldest Jewish residents, there were occasions during these years when special services or gatherings were held in private homes, but whether these were for the purpose of holding religious services, or for purely social purposes, is not recalled.

C. The Jewish Community in 1925

In 1925, there were at the most some 15 Jewish families living in Beckley proper. If any religious services were held at any time during this period, and for some years after 1925, before the actual congregation was organized and the synagogue building built, in 1935-1936, such services (Minyan or Yahrzeit) were generally at least in part Orthodox; several old and well-used Orthodox Siddurim (prayer-books) which must have been used by the members in those earlier days were still extant in the Temple Library in 1954. For in those days many members of the as yet unorganized congregation came from homes which were originally and strongly Orthodox. The *Union Prayer Book* for both the Sabbath and the three festivals (the Revised Edition of Volume I), as well as that for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (the Revised Edition of Volume II), were later adopted officially by the congregation. The Newly Revised Volumes I and II of the *Union Prayer Book* (published in 1945 by the Central Conference of American Rabbis) were officially adopted and purchased by the congregation in 1950; most of these volumes were purchased and donated to the congregation by several members in memory of their deceased parents or other relatives.

In 1954 Congregation Beth El was totally Reform, and its services were on all occasions along strictly Reform lines, but it had not as yet affiliated itself with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The

Yarmulka (prayer cap) and the Tallith were still used, in 1954, by the rabbi and by some of the members of the congregation at Bar Mitzvahs, at the High Holy Day services, and on the Eve of Sukkos and of Simhath Torah, but these were the only vestiges of the congregation's former conservative tendencies. A few of the sixty or more Jewish families living in Beckley in 1954 still were possessed of Orthodox sympathies and childhood and home memories, but they did not live in their own homes as Orthodox Jews, and they observed few or none of the Orthodox customs and practices, including the dietary laws and the laws of kashruth. As far as can be ascertained, not a single Jewish family in Beckley observed the dietary laws, in 1954. A few of the Jewish families of the Beckley community, in 1954, kept the lighting of the candles and the Kiddush ceremony on Friday nights and on the eve of the Jewish holidays in their homes, and many of them had Mezuzahs on their doors, and kept the Passover Seder and the Haggadah service and ceremony. But the laying of the Tefillin, or phylacteries, and the Havdalah ceremony on Saturday night at the end of the Sabbath, and the observance of the 2nd days of the festivals were then totally unknown and not practised in the Jewish community. However, the Shabbas (and festival) Kiddush and the kindling of the Sabbath and holiday candles were still regularly observed in the Temple at the Friday evening religious services, the former being conducted by the rabbi, and the latter by a woman of the congregation, under the auspices of the Beckley Sisterhood.

It is of more than ordinary interest that still in 1955, Congregation Beth El, of Beckley, practised the Orthodox-Conservative custom of holding a religious service on the 2nd morning of Rosh Hashanah (New Year) whenever the first day of Rosh Hashanah falls on the Sabbath, as it did in September, 1953, and in September, 1955, since several of the members of the congregation, of Orthodox provenance and background, would object to the blowing of the Shofar, or Ram's Horn, on the first day of Rosh Hashanah whenever this falls on the Sabbath (Saturday morning). Instead, on such occasions, the Shofar is blown in the congregation by the Shofar blower, James Pickus, at the religious services on the morning of the 2nd day of Rosh Hashanah, on Sunday morning, in the course of a much briefer service, replete with sermon by the Rabbi, on the 2nd morning of the Rosh Hashanah High Holy day. Some 40 adults and about 20 children of the Religious School usually attend these services for the 2nd day of Rosh Hashanah, at which the *Union Prayer Book* is used, the Torah is read, and the *Malchuyoth*, *Zichronos*, and *Shofaros* portions omitted from the *Union Prayer Book* on the 1st morning are read.

The Beckley Jewish community never possessed its own Mohel (religious performer of circumcisions) or its own Shochet (ritual slaughterer of animals and poultry for food), even on a part-time basis, or its own kosher butcher shop or its own kosher delicatessen store. Up to about the year 1945, kosher meat used to be ordered by some of the Jewish families of Beckley and shipped into the city by means of iced or dry-ice-packed packages from Cincinnati, Baltimore, Huntington, and

Charleston, by railway express. In 1954, kosher salami and other smoked or preserved meat products, also canned smoked salmon, were still being shipped into Beckley by express or parcel post from Charleston, from Baltimore, from Cincinnati, or from New York City, or brought back from these cities by Jewish residents; two of the local grocery stores (non-Jewish-owned), in 1955, still stocked such food items (kosher) for the convenience of the Jewish residents. Matzos for the Passover were always shipped into Beckley by express, bus, or parcel post or by direct delivery, or brought in by Jewish residents, from Cincinnati, Charleston, or, occasionally, from Baltimore. In the last few years, the local chapter of Hadassah, or the Beckley Sisterhood, either separately or in co-operation, brought in kosher delicatessen foods and Passover Matzos and other Passover foods from Baltimore for resale to the individual members, the profits accruing to the benefit of the treasuries of the organizations.

From 1926 to 1929, while he was serving as the rabbi of the Virginia Street Temple, in Charleston, W. Va., Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, now (1955) president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, would visit the Beckley Jewish community occasionally, and give lectures or sermons and hold religious services on Friday nights (Sabbath Eve), as also did Rabbi Ariel L. Goldburg (in 1955 he was the rabbi of Congregation Beth Ahabah, in Richmond, Va.) later. (The latter also served for a number of years as the rabbi of the Virginia Street Temple, in Charleston.) Rabbi Louis J. Cashdan, still later the rabbi of the Virginia Street Temple, in Charleston, occasionally came to Beckley for weddings and other special events, from Charleston.

D. The Forming of the Congregation, in 1935

Congregation Beth El (originally known, as has been stated above, as The Beckley Hebrew Association, or the B. H. A.), was formed at a meeting held in April, 1935, at the home of Irving Goldstein, who was then living at 215 Woodlawn Ave., in a house now (1955) occupied by Mr. and Mrs. James Pickus and their son, Manuel Pickus. Present at this founding or organizational meeting were the following ten Jewish men:

Samuel I. Abrams	James Pickus
Nathan Berman	Louis Pickus
Louis J. Fink	Nathan Pickus
Irving Goldstein	Abe Saks
William Klein	Jacob Silverberg

The first officers whom the congregation ever had were elected at this meeting, in April, 1935, as follows:

PRESIDENT: Nathan Berman (1935-1937)

SECRETARY: William Klein (1935-1938)

TREASURER: Irving Goldstein (1935-1936)

Temple Beth El, Exterior View



There was no vice president elected at that time. Strangely enough, during most of the organized history of the congregation, from 1935 to 1955, there were few vice presidents elected or serving.

In 1948, the original name of the Congregation, the Beckley Hebrew Association (or, as it was familiarly and briefly called, the B. H. A.), was officially and formally changed to Congregation Beth El ("The House of God"; known also as Temple Beth El), although the older, original name has since been regularly used as a subheading on the stationery of the congregation.

E. Earlier Meeting Places, from 1921 to 1935

Before the Temple building was actually erected in 1935-1936, on certain occasions the members of the community, or congregation, would meet at the Beckley Woman's Club building (not then located on Park Avenue); or in the American Legion Hall (then located in a log cabin on the site of the present Memorial Building, on South Kanawha St., between McCreery and Howe Streets); in a hall over the Watkins Drug Store (at the corner of Neville and Heber Streets); and, as above stated, in the older Beckley Presbyterian Church building, on South Kanawha St., opposite McCreery and Howe Streets; also, for a time, and on some occasions, in private homes. According to the recollections of some of the oldest Jewish residents of the city and members of the congregation, many of these meetings were held for the purpose of conducting the religious school of the congregation or community, with the aid of the ladies of the community, beginning with the year 1922. Some of the meetings which were held in the private homes of Jewish members of the community up to the year 1935 were supper parties arranged for the purpose of raising funds for the planned synagogue building.

So far as can now be ascertained, within the memories of the oldest members of the congregation, the Beckley community or congregation had no student rabbi until September, 1939, when Morton M. Applebaum, who in 1955 was serving as the rabbi of the Akron Hebrew Congregation, at Akron, Ohio, became the first student rabbi (from the Hebrew Union College, of Cincinnati, Ohio) of the congregation, serving from 1939 to 1940, when he was graduated as a rabbi. In 1939, Morton M. Applebaum became a charter member of the Beckley B'nai B'rith Lodge No. 1360, while serving the Beckley congregation.

F. The Congregation and the Synagogue Building

Thereafter, the initial impulse towards the erection of the synagogue building of Congregation Beth El, in 1935-1936, was given by the raising of the sum of \$1,500 from the twenty-nine or more Jewish families residing in Beckley and the vicinity in that year. A loan was made from the Beckley National Bank to cover the balance of the total cost of the synagogue building; this note was endorsed by Harry Abel, Nathan Berman, David Freed, Irving Goldstein, and Benjamin E. Lewis, who were then the first trustees (afterwards called by the term Board of Directors) of the Congregation. This loan was subsequently paid off in full, in November, 1944.

G. The Land on Which the Temple Was Erected

The actual work of the erection of the Temple Beth El building was started on August 6, 1935, on land (at the corner of Second St. and Bellevue Lane) purchased partly from the City of Beckley; partly also from the Raleigh County Board of Education; also partly from the Burleson Estate (through E. L. Burleson); and partly from the Beaver Coal Corporation. The total cost of the land was \$550. The clear title to this land was given to the Congregation on December 7, 1935. The building of the Temple structure was completed on June 22, 1936. (The original name of Bellevue Lane was Smith St.)

The land bought from the city was purchased from the City of Beckley (for the token or nominal purchase price of \$1.00) at the time when A. Z. Lilly was the mayor. A small part of this land was originally an alleyway which ran through the center of the site of the present Temple building, land which was owned by the city. The first recorded action on the purchase of this land was taken on August 6, 1935. The date of the deed received by the Congregation from the City of Beckley is October 22, 1935. Harry Abel, Nathan Berman, David Freed, Irving Goldstein, and Benjamin E. Lewis, mentioned previously as trustees (directors) of the Beckley Hebrew Association, signed and witnessed as trustees of the congregation.

In the official deed the land is described as follows:

" . . . the said party of the first part [the City of Beckley] does hereby grant, sell and convey unto the said parties of the second part [the Beckley Hebrew Association] all its rights, title, and interest in and to that certain alleyway located within the said City of Beckley, Raleigh County, West Va., and being more particularly described as follows:

"And being all that portion of a certain alleyway 15 feet in width, which is adjacent to the boundary line of Lot No. 35 of the Fairlawn Sub-Division to the City of Beckley, and which boundary line, beginning at a course determined by the intersection of the eastern boundary line of said lot with said alleyway, runs in a straight line N 61° 9' W 107 feet to the corner of said alleyway and Smith [now Bellevue Lane] Street. The portion of said alleyway herein conveyed is 107 feet in length and 15 feet in width and is more particularly described and set forth in that certain map of the said Fairlawn Sub-Division to the City of Beckley, which said map is of record in the office of the Clerk of the County Court of Raleigh County, West Virginia, in Map Book No. 6 at page 47, reference to which said map is here made for a more particular description of that part of said alleyway herein conveyed."

H. The Architect

Plans for the map of the land tract and for the synagogue building of Congregation Beth El were drawn up by Samuel H. Bridge, a Beckley engineer and architect. (Samuel H. Bridge was still resident and active in Beckley as an architect and civil engineer in 1955.)

I. The Building and Its Cost

Work on the actual building, which is a white-painted building constructed of building blocks, and consisting of two stories, was started on June 22, 1936.

The total cost of the building, less the cost of the steel which was used in its construction, was \$5,800. The steel used in the building, purchased from one of the Temple founders and charter members, Nathan Berman, who was then in the scrap iron and metal business, cost \$152.53. Thus the entire cost of the building was \$5,952.53.

The chairs cost \$135.20

The pulpit cost \$60.90

The pews cost \$474.00

The Sefer Torah (Scroll of the Law) cost \$160.00, inclusive of the Torah mantle. (The Congregation has never owned more than one Sefer Torah.)

The synagogue of Congregation Beth El is a two-story building. The upper floor contains the sanctuary, the rabbi's study or office, the cloakroom, and two small-sized classrooms to the right and to the left of the pulpit. The lower floor contains the assembly or vestry room (the social room, which is used as a classroom on Sunday mornings), the kitchen, the rest rooms, a storeroom and closets, and the gas furnace and storage room.

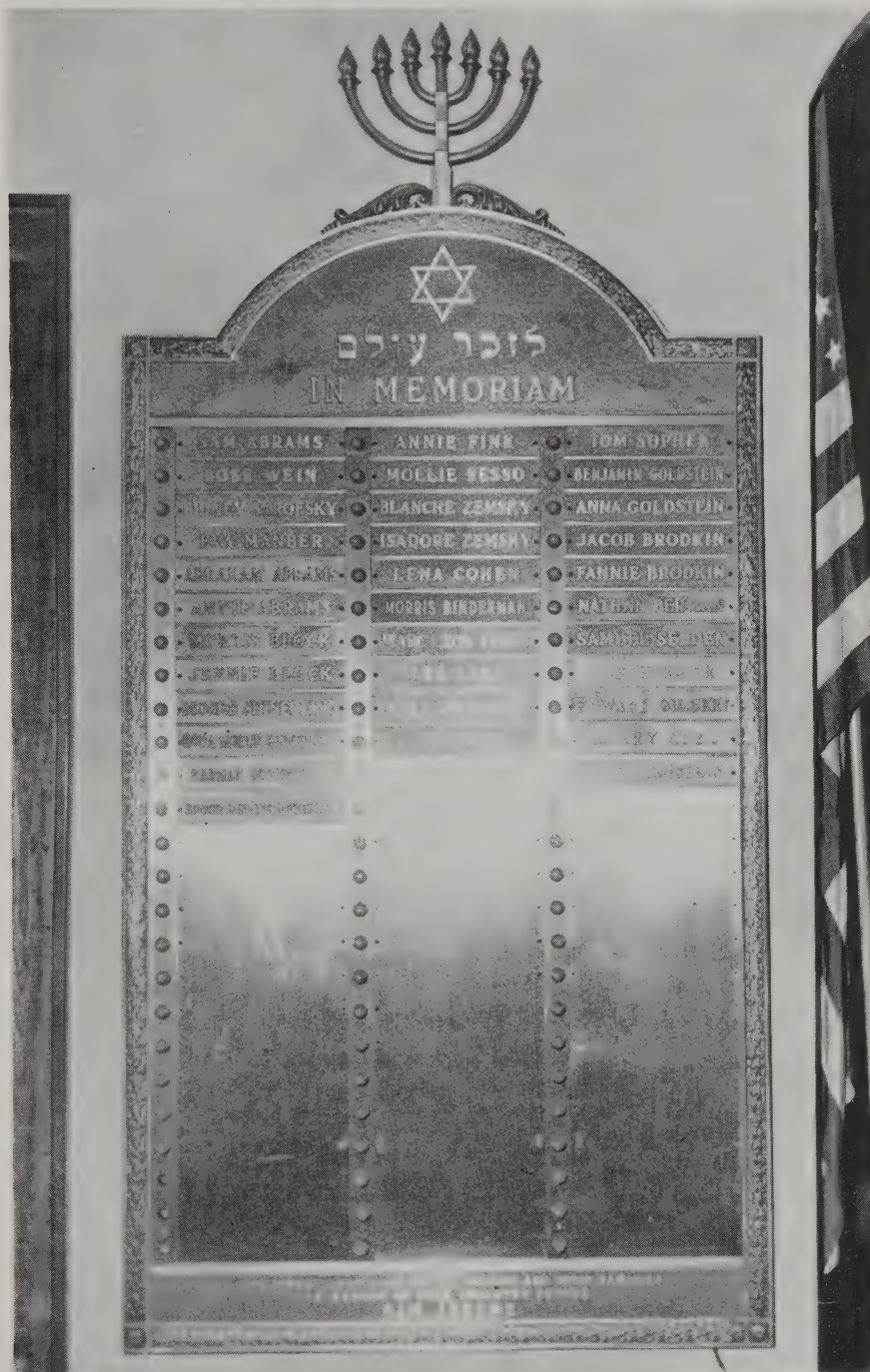
The normal seating capacity of the Temple Beth El sanctuary is about 125; with extra chairs placed in the rear and in the center aisle, it can seat 150 persons. The vestry rooms downstairs can accommodate about 100 to 120 persons for dinners, meetings, parties, plays, entertainment, and the like.

J. The Equipment and Furniture of the Temple Building

On October 14, 1936, furniture and equipment were ordered for the new Temple building, then completed, including twenty double pews, two side chairs for the pulpit, and the pulpit itself. The total cost was \$460.90, which it took the congregation, which was then much smaller in membership than it is now (1954), three years to pay off.

The sidelights (two six-branched Menorahs, or candelabra) were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Greenfield, in memory of their parents, Isadore and Sadie Greenfield, and Nathan and Yetta Albert. (The earlier Orthodox or at least partly traditional complexion of Congregation Beth El is indicated by the fact that these two Menorahs or large-size candelabra are six-branched, instead of being the seven-branched Menorahs or candelabra which are used by strictly Reform congregations.)

The Sefer Torah (of medium size) was ordered through the courtesy of Rabbi Samuel Cooper, of B'nai Jacob Congregation, Charleston, W. Va.; the price of the Sefer Torah itself with \$150, and the cost of the Torah mantle was an additional \$10.



In 1953, the family of the late Samuel I. Abrams (who died on April 12, 1952) donated a memorial plaque of bronze to the Temple, as a perpetual Yahrzeit plaque. Contributors to this memorial plaque were Mr. and Mrs. Isadore R. Wein, Mr. and Mrs. A. David Abrams, and Mrs. Samuel I. Abrams (Mrs. Esther Block Abrams). By June, 1955, there were bronze memorial tablets or plates recording the names of 33 deceased relatives of members of the congregation attached to the memorial plaque.

In 1954 these same families donated classroom furniture for the two small classrooms of the Religious School located to the right and left of the pulpit, in memory of Samuel I. Abrams and of Rose Wein, of Newark, N. J., the sister of Isadore R. Wein and of Morri R. Wein.

A scarlet-red-colored pulpit cloth, still in use in 1955, was given to the Temple by Edward Saymen, in memory of his mother, Mrs. Blanche Zemsky.

The white pulpit cloth was donated to the congregation by Dr. Bernard E. Silverman, in memory of his mother, Tauba Silverman.

In September, 1955, Charles Heller, of New York, presented an additional pulpit or altar cloth, made of white velvet, to the congregation in memory of his father, Joseph B. Heller, who had died at Beckley on March 31, 1954.

The Ark of the Law (the *Tevah*) was presented to the Temple by Louis Berman, of Charleston, W. Va., the father of Nathan Berman, in his honor. (Louis Berman was still living in Charleston, W. Va., in 1955, age 74).

The Shield of David (Magen David) over the Ark was given to the Temple by Mr. and Mrs. I. J. (Jerry) Greenfield, who later moved to Cincinnati.

The front canopy, of metal, was presented to the Temple in 1953 by the Beckley B'nai B'rith Lodge.

The electric organ was purchased for the Temple in 1950, in part from a contribution given by Charles H. Levine, and in part through contributions made by individuals in Beckley and other cities, and secured by him.

K. The Temple Building Loan, Taken out in 1935-1936

The loan (mortgage) taken out by the charter members and directors (trustees) of the Temple in 1935-1936 was secured from the Beckley National Bank. It was fully paid off in November, 1944, after a period of some nine years, at which time there was a dinner celebration and observance, and the burning of the note held by the bank was celebrated as a special occasion in the Temple. A large amount of the total value of this note held by the Beckley National Bank (approximately \$1,600) was raised and contributed by the Beckley Sisterhood through suppers, rummage sales, dances, cake sales, parties, and the like. The

balance was donated by eight members of the Temple. The original mortgage assumed by the congregation after the completion of the synagogue building in 1936 was in the amount of between \$8,000 and \$10,000. (This figure is found in the records of the congregation, but it is declared by some of the charter members to be much too high.)

It is of interest that, in order to raise a part of the money which was necessary for the repayment of this mortgage and its curtailment, it was suggested by Irving Goldstein, one of the charter members of the congregation and one of its original trustees (directors), that every Jewish merchant in Beckley, when paying bills to manufacturers or wholesale houses in other cities, take an extra discount of 1% from the wholesalers and the manufacturers, with the consent of the latter, this extra 1% discount going to the Temple building fund for the reduction of the mortgage or loan. Some money was raised for the Temple in this way.

L. The Dedication of Temple Beth El

Temple Beth El (then, of course, still known officially as The Beckley Hebrew Association) was officially dedicated in the year 1937 (the exact month of the dedication service is no longer remembered), at which time the first sermon was delivered in the new sanctuary, at the dedication services, by Rabbi Julius Kravetz, then the rabbi of Congregation Ahavath Sholom, of nearby Bluefield, W. Va. Rabbi Samuel Cooper, of Congregation B'nai Jacob, of Charleston, also participated in the service of dedication, and gave an address as well as an invocation. They were the only two rabbis present at the dedication services.

Others of our coreligionists who came from other cities to attend the dedication services in 1937 were Isadore Cohen, of Bluefield; and Lawrence M. Brile, of Fairmont, W. Va.

M. The Repairing and Improvement of the Temple Building

The building of Congregation Beth El was twice repaired and improved: once in 1949, and once again in 1954.

In 1949, the first remodeling and repairing of the Temple building was undertaken, during the presidency of M. Edward Harvit. At that time new fixtures were put in and repairs were made, totalling in cost more than \$1,000. The lighting in the vestry rooms was improved, improvements were made to the kitchen, which was modernized, and twenty sets of green-colored tables and chairs (80 chairs) were purchased for the vestry rooms; many other improvements were made, especially in the vestry rooms.

Again, in the summer of 1954, this time while Isadore R. Wein was serving as president of the congregation (as the chairman of the Board of Directors), through his aid, and with the aid of contributions by Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith (which, for years, has been using the vestry rooms as its meeting place) (\$500), and by the Beckley Temple Sisterhood (\$800), which two organizations paid for the greater part of the cost, and also with the aid of several individual

contributions and of a small donation by the Junior Congregation of Temple Beth El, the entire Temple building was repainted and repaired, new lights were installed in the sanctuary proper, bookracks were placed at the backs of the pews, and new floors of asphalt tile were laid in the entire upstairs portion of the Temple building, including the pulpit, the classrooms, and the rabbi's study; also, a new heating unit for the vestry rooms was installed there, and several superannuated steam pipes were removed from the ceiling of the downstairs floor. Over the years from 1950 to 1955, the B'nai B'rith Lodge allocated a fixed sum annually for improvements to the Temple and for repairs, including a metal awning for the front steps, installed in 1953; some of this work of improvement was physically performed by members of the Lodge, including William Binderman, Maurice Selden, and Harold Rudin.

In the summer of 1955, new plumbing fixtures were installed in the two rest rooms of the Vestry Rooms. Previously, a new front door for the Bellevue Lane entrance to the Temple building had been installed, and full-length screens for every window in the Temple, as well as a front screen door, had been installed. Harold Rudin, in September, 1950, constructed a permanent Sukkah, or booth, of wooden frames and poles, which was used by the Congregation at every Sukkoth service and celebration, and was still in use in September, 1955. The Congregation annually erects this Sukkah in the Vestry Rooms, and the children and Religious School teachers, each year, decorate it with fruits, flowers, and branches and leaves of trees, in commemoration of the Feast of Tabernacles.

N. The Constitution of Temple Beth El

(Adopted in the Year 1935)

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be The Beckley Hebrew Association.*

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

Any adult male [Jew] of good character and reputation shall be eligible for membership in The Beckley Hebrew Association. All new members shall apply to the Board of Directors as regards their intention of joining, and the Board of Directors, on such notification, shall specify the dues of the new member. (According to Article II, and also by the "unwritten law" of Congregation Beth El, women cannot vote, or be elected to serve as officers or Board members of the Congregation.)

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Temple Beth El [In all the following cases, the original name of the congregation, The Beckley Hebrew Association, found in the original Constitution of 1935-1936, only one copy of which was still extant in

*Later, in 1948, the name was officially changed to: Temple Beth El (Congregation Beth El).

1955, has been changed to Temple Beth El. The Editors and Authors.] shall be governed by a Board of Directors. This Board shall consist of eight (8) members.

The Board shall be elected for a period of one year.

Election shall take place at the annual meeting, to be held at the end of March of each year.

The Board shall elect a chairman [president], a secretary, and a treasurer.

The Board shall meet four times a year, and no meeting shall be official unless a quorum of more than half the Board shall be present.

If a Board member misses two consecutive meetings in the year, he shall be replaced by a general election of the congregation.

Special meetings may be called at any time by the Board or any group of five or more members of the Beth El Temple.

ARTICLE IV. DUES

Dues shall be set by the Board and must be paid in full before the [fall high] holidays.

In case of hardship, a payment system may be arranged by the Board upon [the member's] notifying the Board of such hardship.

In all cases, at least one-half the annual dues must be paid before the Holy Days.

The member's dues shall be set up by the Board of Directors and such dues shall be the annual dues.

Each member has the right to review his dues with the Board and, in case of hardship, adjustments shall be made.

Non-payment of dues shall bring immediate suspension from the Temple of the individual and his entire family. In case of hardship, a six-month period of grace shall be allowed.

ARTICLE V. RESOLUTIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

No resolutions or motions to commit the Temple on any matter shall be considered unless they are first submitted to the Board of Directors.

No assessments shall be permitted to be placed on the membership of the Temple under any circumstances.

ARTICLE VI. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Temple Beth El shall deal only with the religious activities of the Temple.

No social activities or any other than religious activities shall come before the Board.

The Board shall decide as to all questions pertaining to a permanent or a part-time rabbi.

ARTICLE VII. THE ANNUAL MEETING

An annual meeting shall be called by the Board of Directors in the latter part of March of each year. Each member of the congregation

shall be notified of this meeting in writing. At that time, all minutes and records, together with the annual report, shall be issued to the congregation for their approval. The election of the new board of eight (8) Directors shall take place at this annual meeting.

ARTICLE VIII. NON-AFFILIATION

Any member of the Jewish community who is not affiliated with the Temple as a dues-paying member can not attend any function which is held in the Temple by any of the affiliated organizations. This applies to the member himself and to his entire family.

O. The Charter Members of Congregation Beth El (1935-1936)

(Those marked with an asterisk * are deceased.)

(Those marked with the symbol † have moved away from the city or from the region.)

*Nathan Berman	†Ben Myers
Benjamin E. Lewis	*Thomas Sopher
†Louis Pickus	William Klein
†David Freed	†Israel Fink
M. Edward Harvit	Sidney Fink
Irving Goldstein	*Charles Greenfield
Albert Abel	*Samuel Abrams
Jack Binderman, Sr.	*David Arnstein
James Pickus	*Harry Abel
†Jerry Greenfield	†Samuel Wasserkrug
Jacob Silverberg	*Joseph B. Heller
Nathan Pickus	*Abe Saks
Louis J. Fink	†Abe Lovitz
†Ben Harris	*Edward Gilbert
†Joseph Keiserman	

(Note: Several of the names on the plaque were misspelled by the maker of the plaque, and several other names were given only by the initial, instead of by the full first name. See the illustration of the plaque of the charter members.)

P. The Presidents of Congregation Beth El

The first president of Congregation Beth El was Nathan Berman, one of its founders and a charter member, who served for two years in this position, from 1935 to 1937. (He died on June 9, 1942.) He was succeeded by Irving Goldstein in this office (1937-1938).

Other men who served as president of Congregation Beth El (or, as it was originally known, The Beckley Hebrew Association) included:

Joseph Keiserman (1938-1939)

Joseph B. Heller (1940-1941) (Joseph B. Heller died on March 31, 1954.)

Jack Binderman, Sr. (1941-1942)

William Klein (1942-1943)

(The president in 1943-1944 is not recorded, and can no longer be ascertained. It is possible that there was no president of the Congregation during that year.)

J. Leonard Baer (1944-1945) (J. Leonard Baer died on December 7, 1948.)
Isadore R. Wein (1945-1946, and 1951-1955)
Samuel I. Abrams (1946-1947) (Samuel I. Abrams died on April 12, 1952.)
Sidney Fink (1947-1948)
M. Edward Harvit (1948-1950)
Charles Levine (1950-1951)

Due to the loss or the misplacing of important congregational records, which are generally missing before the year 1945, there is no name available for the office of president, and no names for some of the other officers, from 1943 to 1944. The extant congregational records are generally fragmentary and incomplete. The names of some of the congregational secretaries or of the congregational secretary-treasurers (the office was combined for a number of years) are known, but not the exact year or years, in most cases, in which such officers served.

Isadore Binderman served for one year, and Samuel I. Abrams for several years (1949-1952), as vice president of the congregation. Herman Samans served as vice president of Temple Beth El from 1947 to 1948.

Q. Congregational Secretaries and Treasurers

For a number of years, especially after 1945, the offices of secretary and treasurer of the congregation were combined. The first secretary of Congregation Beth El was William Klein, who served in this office from 1935 to 1938. He was succeeded in this position by Benjamin Myers (1938-1940).

The first treasurer of the congregation was Irving Goldstein, who served from 1935 to 1936.

Subsequent treasurers of the congregation included:

Benjamin E. Lewis (1936-1947) (not continuously)
Jack Binderman, Sr.
Herbert E. Cohen
Charles Levine
Max H. Wender (1940-1941 [1943?])
Eric Rosenbaum (1947-1948)
Isadore R. Wein (1948-1955)

Isadore R. Wein served also as the secretary of the congregation for some of the years of his term as treasurer, especially from 1950 to 1955.

R. The 1954-1955 Board of Directors and Officers of the Congregation

In 1954-1955, the following served as members of the Board of Directors and officers of Congregation Beth El. (There was no vice president in that year.) (Their terms of office ended in June, 1955.)

Isadore R. Wein, Chairman of the Board of Directors, and secretary-treasurer of the congregation.

A. David Abrams
William Binderman
Sidney Fink
Irving Goldstein
M. Edward Harvit
Nathan Pickus
Jacob Silverberg

Officers and Directors of Congregation Beth El for the Year 1955 to 1956

The officers and directors of Congregation Beth El for the year 1955-1956, elected in August, 1955, at a special meeting of the congregation, were:

A. David Abrams (re-elected)
William Binderman (re-elected)
Sidney Fink (re-elected)
Irving Goldstein (re-elected)
Harry Lewin (elected a director for the first time)
Eric Rosenbaum (elected a director for the first time)
Edward Saymen (elected a director for the first time)

Isadore R. Wein (re-elected) (re-elected by the Board of Directors as chairman, and as secretary-treasurer of the Congregation, to serve until April, 1956)

(There was no vice president of the Congregation elected for the year 1955-1956)

The congregational Cemetery Committee was constituted as follows in the year 1954-1955:

Nathan Pickus (Chairman)
Irving Goldstein
Isadore R. Wein
Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling

(The Committee was in office also for the year 1955-1956.)

S. The Membership of Congregation Beth El, in September, 1954

In September, 1954, the membership of Congregation Beth El consisted of about sixty individuals and families (aside from some half-dozen widows who did not have full or official membership in the Congregation). (Married or single women, or widows, of Congregation Beth El cannot vote, or be elected to office.) This membership list included two Jewish families in Oak Hill, W. Va.; and three Jewish members or families in Mount Hope, W. Va. (Oak Hill is 15 miles from Beckley; Mount Hope is 9 miles from Beckley. Both of these cities are located northwest of Beckley, in Fayette County, W. Va.) There was not a single Jewish family in nearby Fayetteville, W. Va., also located in Fayette

County. One member of the congregation, in 1954, lived in Mullens, W. Va., and attended religious services in Beckley only on the High Holy Days of each year. In September, 1954, not a single Jewish family was living in Sophia, Scarbro, or Thurmond, W. Va.

In the year and a half preceding September, 1954, the Beckley Jewish community and congregation had lost about 12 families or single members through deaths or through the removal of members or of Jewish families from the city or region to other places, due to the unfavorable economic situation, which in turn was the result of the slump in the production and consumption of bituminous coal, and the large unemployment problem. (In September, 1952, the membership roster of Congregation Beth El had 74 names.) In 1954 there were a total of some 225 Jewish individuals in Beckley (including Mount Hope and Oak Hill), counting about 35 children of religious school age, as well as about a dozen children of pre-religious school age. (By June, 1955, the number of Jewish persons of all ages in the community and congregation had declined to 175.)

In September, 1954, the 60 Jewish families or members comprising the community and congregation of Beckley included the following:

(Those who died after September 1, 1954, are indicated with an asterisk *; those who moved away from the community since September 1, 1954, are indicated by the symbol †; in addition, there were in the Beckley community about half a dozen Jewish persons or families who had withdrawn from the congregation, and had ceased to be members therein, in the period from September 1, 1954, to June 30, 1955, or who had never affiliated themselves with Temple Beth El, for reasons best known only to themselves. In this list, such persons are indicated by the symbol ‡.)

Albert Abel (Mount Hope)
 *Harry Abel (Mount Hope)
 (died on December 29, 1954)
 A. David Abrams
 Mrs. Samuel I. Abrams
 *David Arnstein (died on
 November 22, 1954)
 Mrs. J. Leonard Baer
 ‡Maurice Baer
 Mrs. Dorothy B. Berman
 Robert Berman
 Jack Binderman, Sr.
 †Jack Binderman, Jr. (moved to
 San Diego, Calif., in the early
 part of 1955)
 William Binderman
 Hugo Bornheim (Oak Hill)
 ‡Alfred E. Cohen
 ‡Archie Ellenbogen

Louis J. Fink
 Morie Fink
 Sidney Fink
 Dr. Saul Fortunoff
 †Joseph Freed (removed to
 Parkersburg, W. Va., in
 January, 1955)
 Mrs. Nora B. Franks
 Mrs. Marc L. Front
 ‡Dr. Abraham Gellar
 Arthur Goldstein
 Irving Goldstein
 M. Edward Harvit
 Morris Hochman
 Samuel Hochman
 †Arthur Horowitz (removed to
 Charleston in December, 1954)
 Edward M. Kandell
 ‡Dr. Benjamin Kishony

- William Klein
- †Bernard Lande (Bernard Lande, who was stationed in Beckley for about 2 years as an examining psychologist for the Beckley United States Army Induction Center, on Prince St., was discharged from the service honorably in early June, 1955, at the expiration of his term of enlistment, and returned to his home city of Denver, Colo.)
- Charles H. Levine
- †Robert H. Levine (moved to Charleston, W. Va., in the latter part of 1954)
- Dr. Paul Levison
- Fred Lewin
- Harry Lewin
- Max Lewin
- Benjamin Lewis (Mount Hope)
- Benjamin E. Lewis
- ‡Alfred Lovitz, Sr. (Mount Hope)
- Selig Markowitz (Mullens, W. Va.)
- Nathan Matz
- Joseph R. Miller
- James Pickus
- Manuel Pickus
- Nathan Pickus
- †Isadore Rich (Reichenthal) (moved to Norfolk, Va., in late April, 1955)
- Eric Rosenbaum
- Theodore Rosenbaum
- Jacob Rubin
- Harold Rudin
- Mrs. Abe Saks
- †Bernard L. Saks (removed to Waynesboro, Va., in June, 1955)
- Daniel M. Saks
- Herman Samans
- Edward Saymen
- ‡Harry Seidman
- Maurice Selden
- Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling
- Dr. H. Viola Shlickerman
- Jacob Silverberg
- Dr. Bernard E. Silverman
- Harold A. Sopher
- Ira B. Sopher
- Charles Stromberg
- †Harry Stromberg (moved to Albany, N. Y., in February, 1955)
- Isadore R. Wein
- Morri R. Wein
- Ben H. Wender
- Max H. Wender
- Morris S. Wender (Oak Hill)
- Louis Wolman

A new arrival in Beckley and in the community in the middle of the year 1955 was Dr. Harry Roodin, of Milton, Mass., who came to Beckley on May 26, 1955, with his wife, Blossom Roodin, and his three children: Paul (12), Marjorie (8), and Judith (6). Dr. Harry Roodin was scheduled to serve for the coming two years as the physician at the United States Army Induction Center, on Prince St. His three children entered the Temple Beth El Religious School on September 10, 1955. Paul Roodin was elected vice president of the Junior Congregation in late September, 1955.

Another recent settler, or resident, in Beckley was Marvin Stone (originally Bacharach), who came to Beckley from Norristown, Pa., in mid-1954, and served for about a year and a half as an announcer and assistant at Radio Station WWNH, in Beckley. He is, despite his youth (less than 21 years of age), an authority in the world of athletics and sports, and possessed of a vast fund of knowledge in this field. Marvin Stone left Beckley, in late October, 1955, to return to Norristown, Pa., and, later, to enter Army service.

When Marvin Stone left Beckley, his place as radio announcer at Station WWNR, in Beckley, was taken by Wynn (Erwin) Moore, a young man who arrived at Beckley on October 15, 1955. Wynn Moore and his young bride of just a few weeks. Shirley Moshinsky Moore, are both natives of the City of Philadelphia, Pa. He serves Station WWNR both as radio announcer and as disc jockey.

Those persons who have moved away from Beckley and from the region are listed elsewhere in this volume. (The list there given may not be a complete one, but it is as complete as the authors could possibly make it, as a result of endless research, interviewing, and correspondence.) In addition to the above names, several more Jewish or partly Jewish families in Beckley, and one family in Mount Hope, were living in this area in 1955, but were not members of the congregation or affiliated with it or with its associated organizations in any way in June, 1955. As indicated in the above list, several of the families listed above had moved away from Beckley or from the region by the end of December, 1954; two additional families, Harry Stromberg's and Bernard L. Saks's, moved away in the first half of the year 1955.

The following eleven Jews (families or individuals) who were resident in Beckley at the end of the year 1954, were not affiliated with Congregation Beth El:

Alfred E. Cohen	Dr. Benjamin Kishony
Samuel Cohn	Dr. Julian R. Lewin
Archie Ellenbogen	Alfred Lovitz, Sr. (Mount Hope)
Milton Epstein	Alfred Lovitz, Jr.
Dr. Abraham Gellar	Harry Seidman
Charles Goldberg	

T. Past Members of the Congregation and Community of Beckley

(a) Members or Individuals Lost to the Beckley and Area Community through Death

Members of Congregation Beth El and of the Jewish community at large in Beckley and in the adjacent parts of Fayette County, who passed away in the years from 1920 to 1954 and before (according to the records of the community and congregation, and the memory of its members), included:

Harry Abel	Hyman Fisher
Samuel I. Abrams	Max Fisher
David Arnstein	Samuel Fisher
J. Leonard Baer	Marc Leon Front
Nathan Berman	Edward Gilbert
Harry Burk	Charles Greenfield
Sidney Danbury	Joseph B. Heller
Larry Davis	Adele Holz
Louis Fine	Ben Hurvitz
Annie W. Fink	Charles Hurvitz
(the first Mrs. Louis J. Fink)	Tom Jaffee

Blossom Kamen (Mrs. Edwin Kamen)
 Sidney Labovitz
 Eugene Lopinsky
 Joseph M. Lopinsky
 Morris Lopinsky
 Mollie Lovitz
 (the first Mrs. Abe S. Lovitz)
 Joseph Mendel
 Jacob Miller
 Sana M. Pickus (Mrs. Mendel Pickus)

Sarah Ethel Snow Pickus (Mrs. Louis Pickus)
 Rabbi Bertrand E. Pollans
 Abe Saks
 Sam Scharlow
 Jack Shechtman
 Isadore Shubinski
 Thomas Sopher
 Sally Waitzman (Mrs. Henry Waitzman)
 Dora Fisher Wender (Mrs. Morris H. Wender, Sr.)
 Morris H. Wender, Sr.

(b) Members Lost to the Beckley Community and Congregation by Removal from the City (and from the Neighboring Communities of Fayette County) and by Their Settling Elsewhere

Members of Congregation Beth El or of the Beckley district and community who lived in Beckley and in the neighboring communities, in previous years, and who were lost to the community and congregation through their removal from the city to other cities and to other places of residence, in the years before 1920, and up to 1955 (including two families, those of Harry Stromberg and Bernard L. Saks, who left the community in the first half of the year 1955), were as follows:

(See pp. 73-76 for 14 additional names.)

Mrs. Dora Abel (Mrs. Harry Abel)	Abraham Goldstein
Charles Abrams	I. J. (Jerry) Greenfield
Marcus Berman	Ben Harris
Milford Berman	Jack Hart
Ralph E. Berman	Harold Harvit
Benjamin Binderman	Dr. Lee Hedson
Isadore Binderman	Charles Heller
Jack Binderman, Jr.	Mrs. Sadie Heller (Mrs. Joseph B. Heller)
Jacob Bloom	Jack Heyman
Benjamin Cohen	Nathan Hirsch
Herbert E. Cohen	Harry Hochman
Joseph M. Cohen	Arthur Horowitz
Charles Darvin	Ernest Jaffee
Robert Dubin	Morris Jaffee
Louis Epstein	Edwin Kamen
Sylvia Favish	Dr. Robert Karpas (physician at the Beckley VA Hospital, who served in Beckley for a year [1951-1952], and then moved to Schenectady, N. Y., to settle, as a practising physician)
Mrs. Mayme Favish	Daniel Keiserman
Israel Fink	Joseph Keiserman
Jack Fink	Isadore Klein
Leonard Fivers	
David Freed	
Joseph Freed	
Aaron Friedman	
Sidney Friedman	
Melvin Goldberg	

Bernard Lande	Louis Roth
Henry Lopinsky	Milton Rubenstein
Robert H. Levine	Samuel Rudin
Milford Lewis	Max Sager
Abe S. Lovitz	Bernard L. Saks
Morris Markowitz	Robert W. Saks
Dr. Samuel Martin (physician at the Beckley VA Hospital, who served in Beckley for two years [1951-1953], and then settled in Rutherford, N. J., as a practising physician)	Calvin J. Schildkraut
Ira W. Meltcher	Albert Schwartz
Max Meltcher	Dr. Leo Sherman
Morris Mendel	Malcolm Silverberg
Henry Miller	Sonia Silverberg
Isadore Miller	Howard Silverman
Samuel Milstein	Joan M. Silverman
Morris Morgan	Dora Steiner
Benjamin Myers	Arthur Stern
William Newman	Norman Stoken
Eric Paige	Harry Stromberg
Gerald A. Pickus	Sidney Stromberg
Lou's Pickus	Aaron Totz
Malcolm Pickus	Sidney Tucker
Milton Pickus	Henry Waitzman
Jack Plain	Bernard Wasserkrug
Isadore Rich (Reichenthal)	Harry Wasserkrug
Hans Rosenbaum	Samuel Wasserkrug
Hyman Roth	Milton Watzman
	Sanford Watzman
	Samuel Weber
	Arthur Wolk
	Murray Wolk

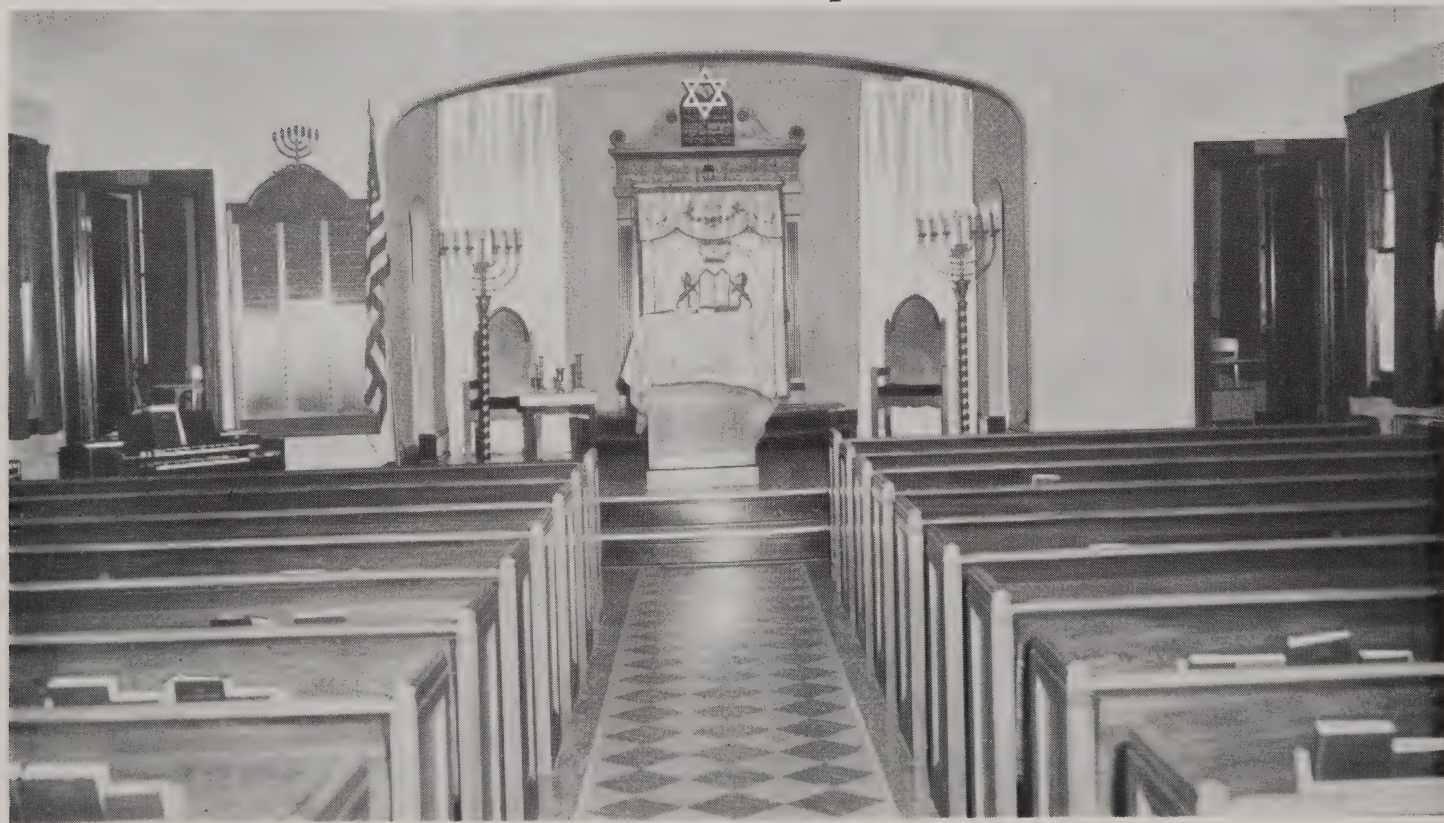
(Robert W. Saks returned to Beckley from Washington, D. C., in November, 1955.)

U. The Rabbis and Student Rabbis of Congregation Beth El

The following rabbis, and the following student rabbis from the Hebrew Union College, at Cincinnati (arranged chronologically), served Congregation Beth El since the building of the Temple in 1935-1936. If there were student rabbis from 1921 on, there is no congregational record of any of them. It appears that, except for the year 1921-1922, to which reference has previously been made, above, there were no student rabbis — the latter making two visits a month from Cincinnati for religious purposes (from September through May, annually) in the congregation — or permanent rabbis in the congregation or community before the year 1935-1936. The names of any possible student rabbis from the Hebrew Union College, in Cincinnati, who served the congregation from 1935 to 1939, are no longer recalled.

MORTON M. APPLEBAUM (1939-1940). Morton M. Applebaum was apparently the first student rabbi who served the congregation, from 1939 to 1940, and he referred to this fact specifically in a

Interior View of Temple Beth El



letter written to Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling in June, 1955, commenting on the forthcoming issuance of this history of the Beckley Jewish community. He was a student rabbi from the Hebrew Union College, in Cincinnati, and was then in his senior year. In 1939, he was one of the charter members of the Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith. Rabbi Morton M. Applebaum was born at Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on August 25, 1911, and was ordained at the Hebrew Union College in 1940. In 1955 he was serving as the rabbi of Temple Israel, in Akron, Ohio.

MAXWELL BERGER (1940-1942). Maxwell Berger, originally a Conservative rabbi, who had served a Conservative congregation in Shamokin, Pa., was brought to Beckley as the first permanent, full-time rabbi of the congregation, in September, 1940, through the agency of Charles Stromberg, and served for two years in this position. After leaving Beckley, Rabbi Maxwell Berger settled in Washington, Pa., where he taught for several years in the college, and then he retired permanently from the rabbinate, and entered the dry cleaning business of his father-in-law, in Washington, Pa., in which he was still engaged in 1955.

(According to reports which reached Beckley from the East late in October, 1955, Maxwell Berger, at that time, was no longer engaged in the dry cleaning business in Washington, Pa., but had removed to a Canadian city, where he was teaching in a university or college.)

HAROLD L. GELFMAN (1942-1943). Rabbi Harold L. Gelfman, who served the Beckley congregation as rabbi for one year, from 1942 to 1943, was born at Springfield, Mass., on November 11, 1910. He was ordained at the Hebrew Union College, in Cincinnati, in 1938. Some years after leaving Beckley, he served (1950-1952) for two years at Congregation Ahavath Sholom, in Bluefield, W. Va., and from 1952 to 1955 he was rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel, in Jackson, Michigan. He also had served congregations in Raleigh, N. C., and Elmira, N. Y., before coming to Bluefield in September, 1950.

In October, 1955, Harold L. Gelfman was serving as the rabbi of the Cape Cod Synagogue, at Hyannis, Mass.

JACOB G. SOSHUK (1944-1946). Rabbi Jacob G. Soshuk served Congregation Beth El for two years, from 1944 to 1946. He was born in New York City on March 10, 1912. After leaving Beckley in 1946, Rabbi Jacob G. Soshuk returned to his native New York, and in 1955 he was serving as teacher of Hebrew in Erasmus Hall High School, in Brooklyn, N. Y. In that year he was still a member of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Alumni Association, having been ordained by the Jewish Institute of Religion, in New York City, in 1945.

BERTRAND E. POLLANS (1946-1947). Rabbi Bertrand E. Pollans served the congregation for only one year, from 1946 to 1947, and shortly after leaving Beckley and the congregation he died at New York City, in November, 1947. He was ordained in 1932 by the Jewish Institute of Religion, in New York City.

RICHARD G. HIRSCH. (1948-1949). Richard G. Hirsch was the student rabbi of the congregation for the year 1948-1949, being then in his senior year at the Hebrew Union College, in Cincinnati. He was born at Cleveland, Ohio, on September 13, 1926, and was ordained at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, in Cincinnati, in 1951. In 1955 he was serving as associate rabbi of Temple Emanuel, at Denver, Colorado.

NORMAN KAHANOWITCH (KAHAN) (1949-1950). Norman Kahanowitch (Kahan) also was a student rabbi from the Hebrew Union College, then in his junior year, and served the congregation at Beckley for one year, from 1949 to 1950. He was born on January 2, 1922, at Mozyr, Russia. He was graduated from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, in Cincinnati, in 1952. In 1955 he was rabbi of Temple Beth Israel, at Lima, Ohio.

ABRAHAM I. SHINEDLING (1950—). Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling came to the Beckley congregation as rabbi on September 1, 1950, and was still serving in October, 1955 (re-elected for an indefinite term in March, 1955). His biography is given in full elsewhere in this volume.

Rabbis Applebaum, Gelfman, Hirsch, Kahan, and Shinedling are all members of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and of the Alumni Association of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

During the intervening years or parts of years when the congregation did not have either an ordained full-time rabbi or a student part-time rabbi, i.e., during a part of the years 1941 and 1943, and from 1947 to 1948, as well as in the summer months of those and other years, Isadore R. Wein, then also the secretary-treasurer of the congregation for a number of years, served as the unofficial "rabbi," conducting Bar Mitzvah and funeral services, and often reading the regular Sabbath services and special Minyan services, and preaching or lecturing before the congregation in the synagogue. Thus he Bar Mitzvahed Milford Berman, Manuel Pickus, and Peter Ellenbogen. Harry Stromberg also assisted occasionally in the conduct of the religious services, as did Abe Saks for Minyan services on a number of occasions.

In September, 1947, when the Congregation had, and was able to secure, neither a full-time nor a part-time rabbi, Isadore R. Wein conducted the High Holy Day services, for Rosh Hashanah and for Yom Kippur, and preached sermons at all these services. In recognition of his work on this occasion, an entire-page entry was made in his honor, in 1947, in the congregational Book of Life, or Golden Book (*Sefer Hazahav*).

Previously, in September, 1942, when the Congregation had no rabbi or student rabbi, Isadore R. Wein had conducted the High Holy Day services and preached relevant sermons.

Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling served as the Jewish chaplain at the Federal Reformatory for Women, at Alderson, W. Va., from September, 1951, through August, 1954, making monthly or twice-a-month visits there, conducting religious services and preaching, and holding personal interviews, and providing for the religious and spiritual needs of the Jewish women inmates there. (During those three years there was an average number of seven Jewish women inmates at Alderson.) From 1951 on he served also as chaplain to the Jewish patients at the Beckley Veterans Administration Hospital, to which individual Jewish patients (a total of 14 in the years 1951-1955) have come for observation and treatment from time to time since it was opened for service in March, 1951; he still held this chaplaincy at the Beckley VA Hospital in 1955; in the latter task, he worked under the auspices of the National Jewish Welfare Board, of New York. Also, since his arrival in Beckley in September, 1950, he has visited Pinecrest Sanitarium whenever Jewish tubercular patients were there (only 4 Jewish patients in the five years from September, 1950, through October, 1955. He was still serving as the Jewish chaplain at Pinecrest Sanitarium at the end of October, 1955).

Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling also served for two years (1953 and 1954) as the secretary-treasurer of the Beckley Ministerial Association, and from 1953 to 1954 (two years) he, together with the Reverend Corey O. Mitchell, pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, of Beckley, was co-chairman of the Beckley Ministerial Association's Committee on Interracial and Interfaith Activities, which, in 1953 and again in 1955, sponsored brotherhood and interracial and interfaith meetings and services at Temple Beth El and in several local churches.

From 1951 through 1953, Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling was the representative of the Beckley Ministerial Association on the VAVS Committee, and attended all meetings of this Committee.

The Beckley VA Hospital

The Beckley VA Hospital has been served, since its opening in March, 1951, by a number of Jewish doctors on its staff, including Drs. Robert Karpas, Samuel Martin, Abraham Gellar, and Saul Fortunoff. The latter two, Drs. Abraham Gellar and Saul Fortunoff, were still at the VA Hospital in 1955, Dr. Fortunoff serving as chief of the medical service, and Dr. Gellar serving as diagnostician and in charge of the psychiatric ward.

The Beckley Sisterhood and Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith, are represented on the VAVS Committee, and participate in the activities of the VA Hospital.

V. Vital and Religious Statistics of the Beckley Community

1. The First Wedding, and Other Jewish Weddings in Beckley

The first marriage which was solemnized in Beth El Temple was that of Miriam Fink (daughter of Israel and Sophie W. Fink) and Bernard Snyder, on November 10, 1940, with Rabbi Maxwell Berger officiating; the couple later moved to Bluefield, W. Va., and still later to Newport News, Va., where they were still living and engaged in business in 1955.

The second wedding to take place in Beckley was that of Bernard L. Saks (eldest son of Abe and Gussie B. Saks) and Ruth Wolman (the latter a native of Montreal, Canada), on October 8, 1944, with Rabbi Jacob G. Soshuk as the officiating rabbi.

Other, subsequent, weddings which took place in Beckley, most of them at the Temple, were:

Robert H. Levine (son of Charles H. and Violet G. Levine) and Janet Berman (daughter of Nathan and Dorothy B. Berman), on June 29, 1947, at Temple Beth El, with Rabbi Samuel Cooper, of B'nai Jacob Congregation, of Charleston, W. Va., as the officiating rabbi. This was the first "all-Beckley" marriage, in which both the bride and the bridegroom were members of the Beckley Jewish community.

Morri R. Wein and Sylvia Favish, at the Temple, in 1948, with Rabbi Joseph Wagner, then of Wheeling, W. Va., officiating.

Maurice Selden, originally from Baltimore, and Hannah Hochman (daughter of Morris and Tillie M. Hochman), on March 20, 1949, at the Temple, with Rabbi Louis J. Cashdan, then of the Virginia St. Temple, of Charleston, as the officiating minister.

Arthur Goldstein (son of Irving and Edna B. Goldstein) and Shirley Markowitz (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Selig Markowitz, of Mullens, W. Va.), at the Temple, on October 28, 1951, with Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling officiating.

Malcolm Pickus (son of Nathan and Rose Y. Pickus) and Naoma Cook, in September, 1952, with Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling officiating, at the home of the latter, at 219 Crawford St., in Beckley.

Joan Mae Silverman (daughter of Dr. Bernard E. Silverman and Faye R. Silverman) to Martin S. Bogarad (of Weirton, W. Va.), at the Temple, on Sunday, September 4, 1955, with Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling officiating.

2. The First Jewish Child Born in Beckley

It is considered most likely that the children of Samuel Fisher, who were born in Beckley, were the first Jewish children to be born in that city. Howard Fisher, or his older brother (now dead), was born in Beckley, possibly about the year 1900,

The first-known Jewish child who was with certainty born in Beckley was Milton Pickus (born in 1915), the son of Louis and Sarah S. Pickus, who, in 1949, removed to Richmond, Va.

There is a recollection on the part of one or two of the oldest Jewish settlers that a son was born to Louis Fine before 1914, i.e., prior to the time the family moved to Charleston, W. Va.

Louis Pickus' daughter, Regina, was born in Beckley, about 1917.

3. Funerals

The Jewish Cemetery at Beckley (the Jewish section of the Sunset Memorial Cemetery) was organized in the year 1954. During the period from 1910 up to the year 1954, all funeral services conducted by the rabbis or by Isadore R. Wein at Temple Beth El or in local funeral parlors eventuated in burials in other cities, including New York, Brooklyn, Charleston, W. Va., Bluefield, W. Va., Baltimore, and other places. Up to the middle of 1955, there had been no burials in the new Jewish Cemetery in Sunset Memorial Cemetery.

4. Circumcisions (Brith Milah Ceremonies)

The Beckley Jewish community has never had a Mohel (performer of circumcisions, or Brith Milahs). On many occasions since the founding of the congregation, in 1935-1936, and even before that, the ceremony of Brith Milah was celebrated with the aid of a Mohel, or circumciser, from nearby Charleston, W. Va. This was the Reverend Mr. Benjamin Samuels, of the B'nai Jacob Congregation there, who often came to Beckley, to the homes of members of the congregation or community, for such ceremonies, the Beckley Congregation having always been too small to maintain a Mohel of its own. On several occasions surgeons from the local hospitals performed the circumcisional act, with the rabbi of Temple Beth El officiating at the accompanying religious service. Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling, in the period from 1950 to 1955, often co-operated with the Reverend Mr. Samuels of Charleston, at Brith Milah ceremonies, the rabbi reading the English portion of the circumcisional service, and the Reverend Mr. Samuels previously pronouncing the Hebrew ritual of circumcision, while performing the act. The Reverend Mr. Benjamin Samuels, who serves Congregation B'nai Jacob as Shochet, teacher, and Mohel, came to the Charleston congregation in 1941, and in October, 1955, he was still serving in that post. Rabbi Samuel Cooper, a graduate of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, of New York, of the class of 1932, came to Charleston in September of that same year, and became rabbi of Congregation B'nai Jacob; in October, 1955, he was still serving in that position. On a number of occasions during the years from 1932 to September, 1950, when Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling became the minister of Beth El Congregation, of Beckley, Rabbi Samuel Cooper visited the Beckley Jewish community and officiated at various functions at the request of the Beckley community or of Beckley Jewish families, whenever his services as a rabbi were required, and whenever the Beckley community had no full-time or part-time rabbi.

Jewish boys who were circumcised in Beckley in the period from 1950 to 1955 (in all cases by the Reverend Mr. Benjamin Samuels, of Charleston) included:

Samuel I. Abrams (son of A. David Abrams)
 Leonard B. Fink
 Joel Hochman
 Dennis B. Miller
 Stanley I. Selden

Young Jewish boys below the age of 13 who were circumcised in Beckley and the vicinity in the decade from 1941 to 1950, most of them by the Reverend Mr. Benjamin Samuels, of Charleston, included:

David Abrams	Gordon Lewis (Mount Hope)
Richard Abrams	Franklin Rosenbaum
Dennis Abrams	Thomas Rosenbaum
Paul Henry Arnstein	Dennis G. Saymen
Kenneth M. Fink	Russell Sophor
Alan Hochman	Robert M. Wein
Richard Hochman	Gary A. Wein
Jeffrey D. Miller	

(all the above, except Gordon Lewis, were born in Beckley)

(Jerome H. Saks, born in Newport News, Va., in 1947, was circumcised there)

5. Bar Mitzvahs

Since its beginning as an organized congregation in 1935-1936, Congregation Beth El has practised the Bar Mitzvah of Jewish boys at the age of 13 (on the Sabbath following the 13th birthday, according to the Hebrew Calendar) as a Reform (not an Orthodox) Jewish rite and ceremony. (It has not, thus far, up to 1955, practised the Bas Mitzvah of Jewish girls, but the congregation and the Rabbi would favor such a modern pre-confirmation rite for Jewish girls if the members required it.)

In recent years the following boys of the congregation have been Bar Mitzvahed in the Temple either by the rabbis or by Isadore R. Wein, the "temporary rabbi" or "interim rabbi" (the "unofficial rabbi") of the congregation:

Malcolm Silverberg (by Rabbi Maxwell Berger, in August, 1940. Malcolm Silverberg was the first Jewish boy to be Bar Mitzvahed in Beckley, or in the Temple)
 Charles Heller (by Rabbi Berger, in October, 1941)
 Manuel Pickus (by Isadore R. Wein, in August, 1944)
 Howard A. Silverman (by Rabbi Jacob G. Soshuk, in 1945)
 Harold Harvit (by Rabbi Soshuk, in July, 1945)
 Milford Berman (by Isadore R. Wein, in 1947)
 Peter E. Ellenbogen (by Isadore R. Wein, in May, 1948)
 Robert B. Harvit (by Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling, on February 2, 1951)

Sidney T. Shinedling (by his father, Rabbi Shinedling, on January 25, 1952)

Philip M. Binderman (by Rabbi Shinedling, on March 7, 1952)

Robert S. Klein, (by Rabbi Shinedling, on September 25, 1953)

Paul D. Lewis (of Mount Hope, W. Va.; by Rabbi Shinedling, on November 13, 1953)

Alan J. Wein (by Rabbi Shinedling, on December 25, 1954)

Dennis G. Saymen, the son of Edward and Ruth B. Saymen (by Rabbi Shinedling, on October 14, 1955).

In earlier days, the congregation used to hold the Bar Mitzvahs at the Saturday morning services. In recent years, when the Saturday morning services are attended by few or no men, because of economic and commercial reasons, and the main service of Congregation Beth El is held on Friday night, the Bar Mitzvahs are usually held (except in case of a religious or national holiday occurring on the Sabbath) on Friday night, the Torah and the Haftarah (Prophetical) portions being read by the Bar Mitzvah boy on Friday night.

6. Confirmations

Congregation Beth El has, since its incipency, in addition to the Bar Mitzvah ceremony for Jewish boys attaining the age of 13, also practised the rite or ceremony of confirmation for both boys and girls, at about the age of 16 or 17, on the Feast of Weeks (Shabuoth). This ceremony marks the graduation of the boys and girls from the Religious School of the congregation, and grants the confirmands authorization or license to teach in the Religious School.

In the absence of any other congregational records, it may be assumed that the first confirmation ever to take place in Temple Beth El, was that conducted on May 20, 1945 (Shabuoth), by Rabbi Jacob G. Soshuk. At that time Howard A. Silverman and Bernice L. Arnstein were confirmed.

Jewish boys and girls confirmed in Temple Beth El before the congregation on Shabuoth in previous years, by the rabbis, included:

Bernice L. Arnstein, by Rabbi Jacob G. Soshuk, on May 20, 1945

Howard A. Silverman (by Rabbi Jacob G. Soshuk, on May 20, 1945)

Shirley R. Klein (by Student Rabbi Richard G. Hirsch, of the Hebrew Union College, on June 3, 1949)

Sonia Silverberg (by Student Rabbi Hirsch, on June 3, 1949)

Joan M. Silverman (by Student Rabbi Hirsch, on June 3, 1949)

Philip M. Binderman (by Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling, on May 27, 1955)

Robert B. Harvit (by Rabbi Shinedling, on May 27, 1955)

Sidney T. Shinedling (by his father, Rabbi Shinedling, on May 27, 1955)

7. Minyan Services for Mourners and for Yahrzeit

Even as late as early 1955, Minyan services conducted along slightly more traditional lines, and with the use of the *Union Prayer Book*, but with more Hebrew being read, and with the use of Hebrew Psalms, were still being held for those members who requested it, as conducted

by the Rabbi, or by Isadore R. Wein, or by other laymen of the congregation, in the Temple sanctuary, for Kaddish Yasom (the mourners' Kaddish) and for Kaddish Yahrzeit (the Kaddish prayer recited on the anniversary of the death of parents). These Minyan services are held generally in the late afternoon (just before or after darkness) or in the early evening, for the Maariv service, and no longer in the morning in addition. Originally, in the earlier years of the congregation's existence, Kaddish or Minyan services used to be held also for Minchah (the afternoon service) before the evening service, and in the morning (Shacharis), but this is no longer possible, for business and economic reasons, and due to the necessity of the members to keep their stores open during the entire business day. Often, in the lack or absence of a rabbi, Isadore R. Wein or Abe Saks conducted these Minyan services in past years.

Some of the members of the congregation still prefer the more Orthodox Minyan service for Kaddish Yasom and for Kaddish Yahrzeit to the Reform Kaddish of the *Union Prayer Book*, and they still prefer to recite the Yahrzeit Kaddish and to light the Yahrzeit candle or Yahrzeit electric light in accordance with the Hebrew calendar. Others observe Minyan in accordance with the annual world calendar date, or recite Yahrzeit Kaddish at the Friday evening service.

In 1951 Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling and Isadore R. Wein compiled an as yet incomplete record of the births and deaths of members and relatives (especially the parents) of members, in the form of a permanent Memorial Book, kept on the pulpit, from which, each Friday night, at the religious services, the names of those whose anniversaries of death, according to either the world calendar or the Jewish calendar, fall during the preceding week, are read out during the recital of the Kaddish prayer, whether the living relatives are present at the Temple services or not; new names and anniversaries of death are added to this Memorial Book as the occasions arise.

Up to the year 1953, additional *Yizkor* (*Hazkarath Neshamoth*) or memorial services used to be held in Congregation Beth El on the eighth day of Sukkos, on the second day of Shabuoth, and on the eighth day of Pesach, at the morning service, but in that year these special services and *Yizkor* were discontinued, due to lack of interest and of attendance on the part of the members at such services. Now *Yizkor* (Memorial) services are held in the congregation only on the afternoon of the Day of Atonement, annually.

8. The Temple Beth El Choir

Congregation Beth El has never had a paid or professional choir. All its choir singers and leaders have always been "amateurs," i.e., non-paid members of the congregation, or volunteer singers, with the exception that Roland Hinckley, director of the choir of the Methodist Temple, in Beckley, was engaged to lead and to direct and train the Temple Beth El volunteer choir and also to sing in the choir, during the High Holy Days of 1950 and 1951. From 1950 to 1955, inclusive, Mrs. Helen L. Shinedling served as the volunteer organist of the congregation, for all services.

Roland Hinckley also sang in Temple Beth El on some of the festivals and on special occasions in the years 1950 to 1952. In October, 1955, Mrs. Helen L. Shinedling was still the organist of the Congregation, and directed the Temple Choir for the High Holy Day services and for special occasions; she also taught music and singing to several of the higher classes of the Religious School, on Sunday mornings, and "coached" and directed the annual Chanukah and Purim plays given before the Congregation by the children of the Religious School, each December and March.

In the earlier days, before 1950, Mrs. Esther Labovitz sang in the Temple Beth El Choir. Mrs. Manya S. Binderman also sang in the Temple Beth El Choir for several years, up to 1946, as did Benjamin Myers before he left for Houston, Texas, in 1943. From 1951 to 1953, Mrs. Mildred C. Gellar (Mrs. Abraham Gellar) sang as a soloist in the choir at religious services on a number of occasions, as well as at Sisterhood conventions or meetings, and at Bar Mitzvahs. Beverly Samans, the daughter of Herman and Minnie G. Samans, also sang as soloist in the Temple on special occasions and at services.

The Temple Beth El Choir has always used the *Union Hymn Book* (both volumes) as well as music based on the two volumes of the *Union Prayer Book*. For the High Holy Days, each year, for many years, and for the Three Festivals, the two music volumes of Sigmund Schlesinger for the high holy days and the one volume for the Three Festivals have been used, as well as other musical materials and volumes. The choir has sung, and sings, also at special holiday services, confirmations, Bar Mitzvahs, special Sabbath observances and services, and the like, such as Brotherhood Week Sabbath, Boy or Girl Scout Sabbath, Temple Youth Group Sabbath, Sisterhood Sabbath, and B'nai B'rith Sabbath.

Other musical and liturgical books and materials which the Temple Beth El Choir has used successfully in past years, for the High Holy Days, the Festivals, and the Sabbath services, and was still using at the end of September, 1955, included:

Isadore Freed's *Prayers of Israel*

C. Hugo Grimm's *Sabbath Morning Service*

Abraham and Sidney Sukoening's *Sabbath Evening Service for the Synagogue* (according to the *Union Prayer Book*)

James H. Rogers' *Service for the Sabbath Evening* (according to the *Union Prayer Book*)

James H. Rogers' *Music for the Sabbath Evening Service of the Temple* (Volume II)

Samuel Friedman's *Sheerai Mikdosh* (Parts 1 and 2)

Abraham W. Binder's *Hibbath Shabbath*

In September, 1954, the following persons constituted the Temple Beth El volunteer (non-professional) choir, and frequently sang at the

services in the Temple, especially at the High Holy Day services and at Bar Mitzvahs:

Samuel Hochman
Zena Y. Hochman
Edward M. Kandell
Naomi A. Pickus
Bernard L. Saks
Beverly Samans
Herman Samans

Edward Saymen
Ruth B. Saymen
Hannah H. Selden
Maurice Selden
Dr. H. Viola Shlickerman
Dr. Bernard E. Silverman
Harry Stromberg

All these were still members of the Choir in early 1955, except Harry Stromberg, who moved to Albany, N. Y., with his family, in February, 1955.

In addition, in early September, 1955, Beverly Samans left Beckley to go to the Boston Conservatory of Music, in Boston, Mass., to take the four-year course leading to a degree as a musical therapist. In late June, 1955, Bernard L. Saks moved to Waynesboro, Va.

In September, 1955, Sidney Fink and his wife, Irene B. Fink, joined the Temple Beth El Choir, and participated in the musical services for the High Holy Days of the year 5716 (1955-1956).

9. Professional Persons of the Jewish Community of Beckley

The professional or former professional persons of the Jewish community of Beckley in late 1954 and early 1955 included the following:

A. David Abrams, dentist (not in practice in 1955)

Dr. Jack Binderman, Jr., dentist (moved to San Diego, Calif., in March, 1955)

Dr. Saul Fortunoff, physician, chief of the medical service at the Beckley Veterans Administration Hospital (from 1951 on)

Mrs. Nora B. Franks, manager of the United States Social Security office in Beckley (from July, 1954, on)

Dr. Abraham Gellar, physician, serving at the Beckley VA Hospital (from 1951 on)

Dr. Benjamin Kishony, physician (serving at Pinecrest Sanitarium, the state hospital for the tuberculous, located in Beckley)

Dr. Paul Levison, physician (serving at Pinecrest Sanitarium) (from June, 1950, on)

Dr. Harry Roodin, physician at the Beckley Army Induction Center (came to Beckley in late May, 1955)

Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling, rabbi of the congregation (from September 1, 1950, on)

Dr. H. Viola Shlickerman, dentist (serving at Pinecrest Sanitarium) (from April 1, 1945, on)

Dr. Bernard E. Silverman, chiropodist

Isadore R. Wein, pharmacist (not in practice in 1955)

In addition, in September, 1955, Bernice L. Arnstein, the elder daughter of Mrs. David Arnstein, became a nurse at the Beckley Hospital, after her graduation from St. Joseph's Hospital, in Parkersburg, W. Va.

10. An Occupational and Professional Survey of the Beckley Community

An occupational and professional survey of the Jewish community of Beckley, Mount Hope, and Oak Hill, made in September, 1954, by Isadore R. Wein, Manuel Pickus, and Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling, showed the following:

merchants, 45 (including 5 men who were self-employed salesmen)
 insurance agents, 4
 dentists, 3 (one of these was a woman) (also one not practising in 1955)
 employees in mercantile establishments, 6
 chiropodist, 1
 medical doctors, 4
 United States Social Security office manager, 1 (a woman)
 schoolteacher, 1 (a young woman, who left the community to settle in Florida in early September, 1954)
 pharmacist, 1 (not practising in 1955)
 Rabbi, 1
 electrical engineer, 1
 hotelkeeper, 1
 retired merchants, 3
 home modernization expert and electrical engineer, 1
 Total, 71

Of the 45 merchants above mentioned, analysis showed details as follows:

jewelers, 7
 in the finance and loan business, 5
 in the clothing and furniture business, 4
 self-employed salesmen, 5
 radio and television repair and service expert, 1
 in the clothing business alone, 13
 in the furniture business alone, 4
 in the scrap iron business, 2
 in the house and building repair service, 1
 (electrical engineer)
 pawnbrokers, 3
 in the lumber and building business, 1
 Total, 45

In October, 1955, there were also 1 Jewish nurse in Beckley, and one Jewish radio announcer.

The occupational and professional survey showed that there were no Jewish lawyers or Jewish public officials (except the one in the United States Social Security office) of any kind in the Beckley community. (Since the death of J. Leonard Baer on December 7, 1948, the Beckley Jewish community has not had a Jewish lawyer.) There were no resident physicians at all in the Beckley Jewish community; all four medical doctors mentioned above, as well as one of the dentists above mentioned, served either at Pinecrest Sanitarium, the state hospital for the tuberculous; or at the Beckley Veterans Administration Hospital, a federal institution. There were no Jewish resident physicians at either one of the two Beckley hospitals, i.e., the Beckley Hospital or the Raleigh General Hospital, or at the Oak Hill Hospital, in 1955.

For a number of years before her marriage, and then up to the year 1951, Hannah H. Seiden was employed at the Raleigh General Hospital as supervisor of nurses. In September, 1955, Bernice L. Arnstein began work as a graduate nurse at the Beckley Hospital.

In 1952, two Jewish men, Robert H. Levine and Harold A. Sopher, ran for the office of city councilman on the Republican ticket in the primary elections, but they were not nominated. In 1954, M. Edward Harvit made an unsuccessful campaign for nomination for the House of Delegates in the State Assembly at Charleston, on the Democratic ticket, in the primaries.

11. Business Houses or Firms Owned by Jews in Beckley, Mount Hope, and Oak Hill, W. Va.

The following firms, stores, and business houses were owned and operated by members of the Beckley Jewish community or congregation, or by Jews residing in Beckley and not members of the congregation, as well as in Mount Hope, and Oak Hill, West Virginia, as of September, 1954:

Albert's Army Store (by Albert Abel, in Mount Hope)
 Al's Loan Company (by Alfred E. Cohen)
 Barrack's Wholesale Supply Co. (managed by Harold Rudin; owned by non-local Jews)
 Beckley Wholesale Mart (by Herman Samans)
 Ben's Army Store (by Benjamin E. Lewis)
 Best Furniture Store (by Harold A. and Ira B. Sopher)
 Budget Shop (by Nathan Pickus)
 Clothing Credit Center (C.C.C.) (by Hugo Bornheim, at Oak Hill)
 Elco Lumber Co. (by Archie Ellenbogen)
 Eric's Jewelry Store (by Eric Rosenbaum)
 Harry's Men's Shop (by Harry Lewin)
 Home Modernization Company (by Max Lewin)
 Howard Clothes, Inc. (managed by Edward M. Kandell; not locally owned)
 Hub Store (by Louis J. Fink, Morie Fink, and Sidney Fink)
 Leader Furniture Company (by Charles Stromberg and Harry Stromberg; in February, 1955, Harry Stromberg withdrew from the firm, and moved to Albany, N. Y.)

Lincoln Loan Company (by Max H. Wender)
 Marie Shop (by Samuel Wasserkrug, who lived in Washington, D. C.)
 Modern Furniture Store (by A. David Abrams and Isadore R. Wein)
 (with branches also in Mount Hope, Oak Hill, and Sophia, W. Va.)
 Mount Hope Loan Company (by Benjamin Lewis, in Mount Hope)
 Oak Hill Furniture Store (by Hugo Bornheim, at Oak Hill)
 People's Credit Store (by William Binderman)
 People's Credit Store (by Edward Saymen, in Oak Hill)
 People's Finance Company (by Irving Goldstein and Arthur Goldstein)
 President Hotel (leased and operated by Nathan Matz)
 Quality Dress Shop (by James Pickus)
 Raleigh Junk Company (by Charles H. Levine and Robert H. Levine)
 Saks Jewelry Store (by Bernard L. Saks and Daniel M. Saks) (in late
 June, 1955, Bernard L. Saks moved to Waynesboro, Va., and the
 business was continued by his mother, Mrs. Gussie B. Saks, and
 by his brother, Daniel M. Saks)
 (Robert W. Saks rejoined the firm in November, 1955.)
 Sample Shop (by Jacob Silverberg)
 Seidman's Style Shop (by Harry Seidman)
 Union Store (by Herbert E. Cohen, who in 1952 moved to Miami Beach,
 Florida; Herbert E. Cohen closed down the Union Store completely
 in early 1955, and went into the laundromat business in Florida)
 Vogue Store (by Louis J. Fink, Morie Fink, and Sidney Fink)
 Wender's Jewelry Store (by Ben H. Wender)
 Wender's Jewelry Store (by Morris S. Wender, Jr., in Oak Hill)
 (In addition, Embee's, Berman's Jewelry, the Silver Brand Clothing
 Store, the Thrifty Shop, the Charm Shop, the Howard Clothes Store,
 and the Wise Shop were operated as chain stores owned and conducted by
 Jewish-owned concerns whose proprietors did not live in Beckley.)

12. Jews in the Beckley General Community

Jews and Jewesses participated as members in various organizations for either men or for women, in the general community of Beckley, Mount Hope, and Oak Hill, in 1955, as follows:

American Legion
 Civinettes Club
 Civitans Club
 D.O.O.K.
 Elks (B.P.O.E.)
 Forty and Eight Club
 Junior Woman's Club (the Junior Department of the Beckley Woman's
 Club)
 League of Women Voters
 Knights of Pythias
 Lions Club (Mount Hope)
 Masons
 Moose
 Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F)
 Rotary Club
 Rotary Club (Oak Hill)

Shrine (Masonic)
Beckley Woman's Club

In September, 1955, Isadore R. Wein was serving as 1st vice president of the Civitans Club.

Several of the Jewish women of Beckley were also active in, and members or officers of, various music clubs. Mrs. Helen L. Shinedling was elected treasurer of the League of Women Voters, of Beckley, in early 1954; and in early 1955, Mrs. Mildred C. Gellar was elected secretary of that same organization.

In October and November, 1955, Mrs. Rose Y. Pickus and Mrs. Nora B. Franks were active in the formation of the Golden Age Club, as officers or trustees.

(They served as members of a committee of the Beckley Woman's Club, which sponsored the creation of the Golden Age Club, which was officially organized and elected its officers at its first formal meeting, held on November 17, 1955. Several Jewish men and women joined the Golden Age Club at that time.)

Mrs. Ruth L. Abrams (Mrs. A. David Abrams) was serving, in September, 1955, as treasurer of the Beckley Civinettes, and as president of the Junior Department of the Beckley Woman's Club.

It is of more than local interest that four members of the Beckley Jewish community are noted for their skill and ability at contract and duplicate bridge, and have attained to state-wide fame as excellent bridge players. These are Mr. and Mrs. Sam (Zena Y.) Hochman, and Mr. and Mrs. William (Ida M.) Klein, who have taken part, successfully, as teams and singly, in a large number of local, county, and state-wide contract bridge tournaments. All four have been active for years in the work and the activities of the Southern West Virginia Bridge League, and in April, 1955, Zena Y. Hochman was elected president of this League, for a one-year term. In September, 1955, William Klein was elected a life master of the American Contract Bridge League. Sam Hochman has lectured in Beckley on the subject of contract and duplicate bridge, and is noted as a capable bridge teacher in Beckley and throughout Raleigh County.

Three Jewish men of the Beckley and area community have distinguished themselves for their baseball activities during the last 5 years. Irving Goldstein has served as president of the Warren Williams Junior Baseball League for the past two years (1953-1955), which is a baseball circuit for youths of the county area from 15 to 18 years of age; in October, 1955, after his re-election, he was still serving in that post. Harry Lewin is active in the Babe Ruth Baseball League, of which he was one of the founders and organizers, and he helped considerably in the laying out and the equipping of its baseball field, on Eisenhower Drive, near the State Police Headquarters. This baseball field is intended as a recreational center, also, for all the youths of Beckley; in 1954 this field

was named Lewin Field, in his honor, by the Beckley City Council. Benjamin (Ben) Lewis, of nearby Mount Hope, was serving, in October, 1955, as the president of the Little League Baseball organization, in Mount Hope, in the setting up of which he had taken an active part.

13. Honor Roll—Our Boys and Girls Who Served in World War II

(The symbol † preceding a name in the following list indicates that such person is no longer living in Beckley or in the Beckley area, and is no longer a part of the Beckley Jewish community, as of the latter part of the year 1955.)

The Beckley Jewish community is too young to have had any participation as a community in the First World War of 1917-1918, although three or four of the Jewish men now part of the community did see service from other cities or from Beckley in World War I, such as Irving Goldstein and James Pickus. However, in the course of the Second World War (1941-1945), forty-one young men and women (39 young men and two young women) of the Jewish faith who then lived in the Beckley community (including Mount Hope and Oak Hill) served in the Armed Forces of the United States, as follows:

†Charles Abrams	†Milford Lewis
A. David Abrams	Alfred Lovitz, Jr.
Maurice Baer	†Henry Miller
†Ralph Berman	†Isadore Miller
Robert Berman	†Ira W. Meltcher
†Benjamin Binderman	†Dolores Pickus
†Jack Binderman, Jr.	†Malcolm Pickus
William Binderman	†Milton Pickus
†Robert Dubin	Daniel M. Saks
†Louis Epstein	†Robert W. Saks
Morie Fink	†Malcolm Silverberg
Sidney Fink	Harold A. Sopher
†Leonard Fivers	†Norman Stoken
Arthur Goldstein	†Harry Stromberg
†Harry Hochman	†Sidney Stromberg
Samuel Hochman	†Bernard Wasserkrug (Oak Hill)
†Daniel Keiserman	†Milton Watzman
†Robert H. Levine	Isadore R. Wein
Harry Lewin	Morris S. Wender, Jr. (Oak Hill)
Benjamin Lewis (Mount Hope)	†Arthur Wolk
†Frances Mae Lewis	

As can be seen from a comparison with the plaque of the Honor Roll which is affixed to one of the walls of the Vestry of Temple Beth El, some of the names on the plaque have been slightly misspelled. The correct spellings of the names are given in the above compilation.

A reproduction of the Honor Roll plaque of Beth El Congregation in World War II will be found among the illustrations in this volume.



HONOR ROLL

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS WHO
SERVED IN WORLD WAR II

CHARLES ABRAMS

DAVID ABRAMS

MAURICE BAER

RALPH BERMAN

ROBERT BERMAN

BENJAMIN BINDERMAN

JACK BINDERMAN, JR.

WILLIAM BINDERMAN

ROBERT DUBIN

LOUIS EPSTEIN

MORRIE FINK

SIDNEY FINK

LEONARD FIVERS

ARTHUR GOLDSTEIN

HARRY HOCHMAN

SAM HOCHMAN

DANIEL KAISERMAN

ROBERT LEVINE

HARRY LEWIN

BEN LEWIS

FRANCES MAE LEWIS

MILFORD LEWIS

ALFRED LOVITZ, JR.

HENRY MILLER

ISADORE MILLER

IRA MELTCHER

DOLORES PICKUS

MALCOLM PICKUS

MILTON PICKUS

DANIEL SAKS

ROBERT SAKS

MALCOLM SILVERBERG

HAROLD SOPHER

NORMAN STOKEN

HARRY STROMBERG

SIDNEY STROMBERG

BERNARD WASSERKRUG

MILTON WATZMAN

ISADORE WEIN

MORRIS WENDER

ARTHUR WOLK

It will be noted that twenty-six of these forty-one servicemen and servicewomen who served in World War II are no longer (1955) associated with the Beckley Jewish community, but have removed to other parts of the United States, as indicated by the symbol † preceding their names in the above list. The frequency of the symbol † preceding the names indicates the trend away from Beckley on the part of the young adult members of the Jewish community. For only 15 of the above persons were still living in Beckley, 13 of them members of the Jewish community, in early 1955, and the other 26 who saw service from Beckley and the Beckley area in the Second World War had left the community for other places, since the end of the War in August, 1945. Two were no longer affiliated with the Jewish community in 1955.

Morri R. Wein, the brother of Isadore R. Wein, saw service in the Second World War, in 1941 to 1945, in the Signal Corps of the United States Army, enlisting from Newark, N. J., which was then his native city and home town. He had resided in Newark until he came to Beckley from his native city in 1946.

The Beckley Jewish community did not suffer any fatalities among its servicemen and servicewomen during World War II, but several of its soldiers were severely injured in combat, including Robert W. Saks.

Two Jewish boys from Beckley, who saw service in the United States Armed Forces, but whose names are not contained on the above plaque, are Sanford Watzman and Murray Wolk.

14. A Complete Necrology of the Beckley (and vicinity) Jewish Community

The following, so far as is known and can be ascertained from all the congregational and Sisterhood records, and from consultations and interviews with the older members of the community, is a complete necrology of all those members of the Beckley and vicinity Jewish community who died in Beckley and in the nearby cities and towns; or who passed away in other cities while they were living in Beckley and in the area; or who died after moving away from the Beckley vicinity. These records go back to the very beginnings of the Beckley, Mount Hope, Oak Hill, Scarbro, and Thurmond communities. The place and date of death are given in practically every case, in order to make this communal necrological record almost totally complete:

Harry Abel (died at Mount Hope, W. Va., on December 29, 1954)

Samuel I. Abrams (died at Newark, N. J., on April 12, 1952)

David Arnstein (died at Beckley, on November 22, 1954)

J. Leonard Baer (died at Beckley, on December 7, 1948)

Nathan Berman (died at Beckley, on June 9, 1942)

Harry Burk (died at Norfolk, Va., on April 6, 1934)

Sidney Danbury (died at Charleston, W. Va., about the year 1951)

Larry Davis (died at Montgomery, W. Va., on or about December 27 or 28, 1937)

Louis Fine (died at Charleston, W. Va., about 1950)

- Annie Wasserkrug Fink (the first wife of Louis J. Fink) (died at Beckley, on December 1, 1945)
- Hyman Fisher (died at Rainelle, W. Va., about the year 1942)
- Max Fisher (died at Sophia, W. Va., in 1914)
- Samuel Fisher (died at Beckley, in 1928)
- Marc Leon Front (died at Beckley, on December 10, 1952)
- Edward Gilbert (died at Beckley, on June 5, 1947)
- Charles Greenfield (died at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1952)
- Joseph B. Heller (died at Beckley, on March 31, 1954)
- Adele Holz (died at Charleston, W. Va., on May 31, 1947)
- Ben Hurvitz (died at Charleston, W. Va., on April 19, 1942)
- Charles Hurvitz (died at New York City; date unknown)
- Tom Jaffee (died at Baltimore, Md., in 1954)
- Blossom Kamen (Mrs. Edwin Kamen) (died at Beckley, on May 10, 1949)
- Sidney Labovitz (died at Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1951)
- Eugene Lopinsky (died at Charleston, W. Va., in 1948)
- Joseph M. Lopinsky (died at Welch, W. Va., in either 1915 or 1916)
- Morris Lopinsky (died at Welch, W. Va., in 1930)
- Mollie Lovitz (the first Mrs. Abe S. Lovitz) (died at Oak Hill, W. Va., in 1932)
- Joseph Mendel (died at Charleston, W. Va., in 1945)
- Jacob Miller (died at Beckley, on September 6, 1946)
- Sana Moskovitch Pickus (Mrs. Mendel Pickus) (died at Beckley, on October 17, 1933; Tishri 27, 5694)
- Sarah Ethel Snow Pickus (Mrs. Louis Pickus) (died at Richmond, Va., on August 28, 1955)
- Rabbi Bertrand E. Pollans (died at New York City, in November, 1947)
- Abe Saks (died at Norfolk, Va., on October 7, 1947)
- Sam Scharlow (died at Baltimore, Md., in 1951 or 1952)
- Jack Shechtman (died at Beckley, in 1923)
- Isadore Shubinski (died at Mount Hope, W. Va., on February 6, 1938)
- Thomas Sopher (died at Beckley, on April 8, 1949)
- Sally Waitzman (died at Baltimore, Md., in 1938 or 1939) (the wife of Henry Waitzman)
- Dora Fisher Wender (Mrs. Morris H. Wender, Sr.) (died at Beckley, in September, 1944)
- Morris H. Wender, Sr. (died at Beckley, on December 17, 1938)

15. The United Jewish Appeal in Beckley

The Beckley Jewish community has never had a Jewish Community Chest or a United Jewish Welfare Fund, although attempts were made in 1952 to organize such a Jewish community welfare fund.

Every year in the past, from 1943 through 1952, the Beckley Jewish community conducted United Jewish Appeal drives. The most successful U.J.A. drive was that for the year 1948, at which time the Jewish community of Beckley and vicinity collected the sum of \$6,499. Isadore R. Wein was the chairman of the United Jewish Appeal drives in every year except one; in that year Harry Lewin served as the chairman. Charles H. Levine also was active over a period of years in the collection

Vestry Rooms of Temple Beth El



of funds for the United Jewish Appeal, and in personal contributions to it.

In 1953 and 1954, due chiefly to the commencing financial and economic stringency and to the decline of the coal industry in the Beckley and Raleigh County area, no United Jewish Appeal drives were conducted; in these two years, contributions, smaller in scope, were on a voluntary and direct basis. In 1955, a total of between \$4,000 and \$4,500 was collected for the United Jewish Appeal from the members of the Beckley Jewish community despite the decline in the economic situation.

In addition, many of the Jews of Beckley contribute annual sums to a number of local charities, hospitals, civic defense agencies, and educational institutions, local and national, both Jewish and general.

The Beckley Lodge of the B'nai B'rith makes annual contributions to the Leo N. Levy Memorial Hospital, at Hot Springs, Ark.; and to the National Jewish Hospital, in Denver, Colo. It also contributes annual sums to the Hillel Foundation Building Fund and Maintenance Fund at the University of West Virginia, at Morgantown, W. Va. In 1955, a special contribution was raised among members of the Lodge in Beckley and vicinity for the newly planned Henry Monsky Foundation, to be erected in Washington, D. C. An annual campaign or collection of funds is made under the auspices of the local B'nai B'rith Lodge on behalf of the Joint Defense Appeal of the Anti-Defamation League (B'nai B'rith and American Jewish Committee), in which sums amounting to several hundreds of dollars are raised each year for this defense and educational work.

The Beckley Temple Sisterhood makes annual contributions to a number of local and national charities and institutions. Its local contributions include those to Pinecrest Sanitarium, the Red Cross, the Polio Fund, and the VAVS Committee of the Beckley VA Hospital. The Temple Youth Group contributes to American and Israeli schools and institutions.

In addition, several of the members of the Beckley Jewish community are members of, or contribute to the work of, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, the American Jewish Historical Society of New York City, the Jewish Publication Society of America of Philadelphia, the Yiddish Scientific Institute of New York, the Jewish Statistical Bureau of New York, the Hebrew Immigrant and Sheltering Aid Society of New York, the American ORT Federation of New York, the Leo Baeck Fund of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, the Central Conference of American Rabbis Relief and Subvention Fund, the Jewish Braille Institute of America, the Jewish Chautauqua Society of New York, the National Jewish Welfare Board of New York, and other national and international Jewish causes and institutions. The Junior Congregation of Temple Beth El makes small annual contributions from its Charity Fund to many of the above institutions and philanthropies.

16. The Numbers of the Fayette County Jewish Settlers and Residents Who Came from Other Countries and from Other American Cities*

(circa 1895-1955)

The Number of Jewish Settlers and Residents in Fayette County (circa 1895-1955)	Foreign-born	American-born	The Number of Those Who Came to Fayette County Directly from the "Old Country" (Europe)	The Number of Those Who Came to Fayette County from Other Cities of the United States
29	16	13	3	26

(*NOTE: The figures and statistics in this and the following sections of this chapter are as complete as the authors could possibly make them, on the basis of the information which they had at their disposal or which they were able to secure; however, and of course, they are not altogether complete. Some of the data which the editors requested from the persons involved they were unable to secure, either from them or from their relatives. —THE AUTHORS)

17. The Numbers of the Raleigh County Jewish Settlers and Residents Who Came from Other Countries and from Other American Cities.

(circa 1909-1955)

The Number of Jewish Settlers and Residents in Raleigh County (circa 1909-1955)	Foreign-born	American-born	The Number of Those Who Came to Raleigh County Directly From the "Old Country" (Europe)	The Number of Those Who Came to Raleigh County From Other Cities of the United States
134	34	99	4	109

Born at Sea
1

The Number of Those
Born in Beckley
10

18. The Countries of Europe, and Other Countries, from Which the Fayette and Raleigh County Jewish Settlers and Residents Came to the Beckley Area (Those Not Born in the United States)

(circa 1895-1955)

Name of the Country	Number
Austria	2
Canada	5
Europe (exact country not known)	7
Germany	7
Hungary	1
Latvia	5
Lithuania	5
Poland	5
Russia	15
Born at Sea	1
Total	53

**19. The United States Cities from Which the Fayette and Raleigh
County Jewish Settlers Came to the Beckley Area.
(Those Born in the United States)**

(circa 1895-1955)

<i>Name of the City</i>	<i>Number</i>
Alderson, W. Va.	1
Baltimore, Md.	19
Bluefield, W. Va.	3
Brooklyn, N. Y.	14
Buckhannon, W. Va.	1
Butler, Pa.	1
Charleston, W. Va.	9
Chicago, Ill.	4
Cincinnati, Ohio	4
Easton, Pa.	1
Emporium, Va.	1
Fairmont, W. Va.	3
Grafton, W. Va.	2
Harlan, Ky.	2
Hazleton, Pa.	2
Huntington, W. Va.	2
Illinois (exact city unknown)	1
Keystone, W. Va.	1
Knoxville, Iowa	1
Logan, W. Va.	4
Luray, Va.	1
Milton, Mass.	1
Monongah, W. Va.	1
Morgantown, W. Va.	2
Mount Hope, W. Va.	6
Newark, N. J.	2
New York City	11
Norfolk, Va.	6
Oak Hill, W. Va.	2
Parkersburg, W. Va.	1
Pittsburgh, Pa.	3
Portsmouth, Va.	1
Roanoke, Va.	1
Scarbrough, W. Va.	3
Sewell, W. Va.	1
Shamokin, Pa.	3
Sophia, W. Va.	4
Tarboro, N. C.	2
Thurmond, W. Va.	1
Toronto, Canada	1
Virginia (exact city unknown)	1
Washington, D. C.	2
Welch, W. Va.	5
Wheeling, W. Va.	3

Whitesville, W. Va.	1
Unknown	14
<i>Total</i>	155

**20. The Cities for Which the Jewish Settlers and Residents of Fayette and
Raleigh Counties Left Beckley and the Area.**

(circa 1900-1955)

<i>Name of the City</i>	<i>Number</i>
Albany, N. Y.	1
Baltimore, Md.	7
Bluefield, W. Va.	2
Brooklyn, N. Y.	5
Charleston, W. Va.	15
Chicago, Ill.	2
Cincinnati, Ohio	3
Cleveland, Ohio	1
Florida (exact cities unknown)	4
Houston, Texas	1
Huntington, W. Va.	1
Logan, W. Va.	2
Miami Beach, Fla.	1
Milwaukee, Wis.	1
Montgomery, W. Va.	2
Mount Hope, W. Va.	1
Newport News, Va.	2
New York City	5
Norfolk, Va.	2
Oak Hill, W. Va.	1
Parkersburg, W. Va.	1
Philadelphia, Pa.	1
Pittsburgh, Pa.	2
Rainelle, W. Va.	1
Richmond, Va.	1
San Diego, Calif.	1
Sophia, W. Va.	1
Springfield, Ohio	1
Tampa, Fla.	2
Washington, D. C.	2
Waynesboro, Va.	2
Welch, W. Va.	5
Wellsburg, W. Va.	1
Whitesville, W. Va.	3
Williamson, W. Va.	1
<i>Total</i>	84

21. Cities in Which Jewish Residents of Fayette County Died

(1900-1955)

<i>Name of the City</i>	<i>Number</i>
Baltimore, Md.	1
Beckley, W. Va.	2
Charleston, W. Va.	2
Montgomery, W. Va.	1
Mount Hope, W. Va.	2
New York City	1
Oak Hill, W. Va.	1
Rainelle, W. Va.	1
Sophia, W. Va.	1
Welch, W. Va.	2
<i>Total</i>	14

22. Cities in Which Jewish Residents of Raleigh County Died

(1900-1955)

<i>Name of the City</i>	<i>Number</i>
Baltimore, Md.	2
Beckley, W. Va.	12
Charleston, W. Va.	4
Cincinnati, Ohio	1
Montgomery, W. Va.	1
Newark, N. J.	1
New York City	2
Norfolk, Va.	2
Pittsburgh, Pa.	1
Rainelle, W. Va.	1
Richmond, Va.	1
Sophia, W. Va.	1
<i>Total</i>	29

[NOTE. The 14 additional families or members who are listed on pp. 73-76 as short-time residents of Beckley are not included in the above compilation of vital statistics found in subsections 16 to 22 of Section V. (pp. 123-126) of this chapter, partly because so little is known of these persons or families, and partly because they resided or remained in Beckley for such brief periods of time. THE AUTHORS.]

CHAPTER IV

The Temple and Congregational Activities

A. The Beckley Temple Sisterhood

The Beckley Sisterhood was founded in the year 1925, at a meeting held in the home of Mrs. Rose Y. Pickus (Mrs. Nathan Pickus), at 528 Woodlawn Ave. Mrs. Claudia Wolf, at that time State President of the West Virginia Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, came to Beckley from Wheeling, W. Va., in 1925 to organize the Beckley Sisterhood.

The seventeen charter members of the Beckley Sisterhood in 1925 were as follows:

Mrs. Dora S. Abel (Mrs. Harry Abel) (of Mount Hope, W. Va.)
Mrs. Dorothy B. Berman (Mrs. Nathan Berman)
Mrs. Gussie Davis (Mrs. Robert Davis)
Mrs. Annie Wasserkrug Fink (the first wife of Louis J. Fink)
Mrs. Lillie Fisher (Mrs. Hyman Fisher) (of Scarbro, W. Va.)
Mrs. Edna B. Goldstein (Mrs. Irving Goldstein)
Mrs. Anna Hart (Mrs. Jacob Hart)
Mrs. Mollie Lovitz (the first Mrs. Abe S. Lovitz) (of Mount Hope, W. Va.)
Mrs. Rose Y. Pickus (Mrs. Nathan Pickus)
Mrs. Sana M. Pickus (Mrs. Mendel Pickus)
Mrs. Sarah S. Pickus (Mrs. Louis Pickus)
Mrs. Max Sager
Mrs. Gussie B. Saks (Mrs. Abe Saks)
Mrs. Anna P. Silverberg (Mrs. Jacob Silverberg)
Mrs. Dora Totz (Mrs. Aaron Totz)
Mrs. Marie Wasserkrug (Mrs. Samuel Wasserkrug)
Mrs. Dora Fisher Wender (Mrs. Morris H. Wender, Sr.) (of Oak Hill W. Va.)

According to its Constitution, the purpose of the Beckley Sisterhood is "to bind [Jewish women] together for religious, philanthropic, civic, cultural, social, educational and recreational purposes. It is to be an auxiliary of the Beth El Temple, of Beckley, W. Va." Thus the Beckley Sisterhood, since its inception in 1925, has pledged itself to support and foster the work of the congregation and community along religious, educational, and cultural lines. It aided in the holding of religious services in the early days of its existence, at the Beckley Presbyterian Church, with a non-Jewish choir, and with a student rabbi from the Hebrew Union College, in Cincinnati, officiating. For one year, High Holy Day services were held at the Woman's Club.

Some of the original officers who served from 1925 to 1926 were: Mrs. Dora Totz (Mrs. Aaron Totz), of Mount Hope, W. Va., the first president, who later left the region and settled in Baltimore; the first treasurer, Mrs. Gussie Davis (Mrs. Robert Davis); and the first secretary, Mrs. Rose Y. Pickus (Mrs. Nathan Pickus). Mrs. Gussie Davis was followed in her office by Mrs. Gussie B. Saks (Mrs. Abe Saks). The

original Constitution and charter of the Beckley Sisterhood, dating back to 1925, are now lost; the first Beckley Sisterhood Year Book, to which reference is made below, is dated 1945-1946.

In the fall of 1926, after a little more than one year's existence, the Beckley Sisterhood disbanded, for a number of reasons (including removals of several members from the city, the difficulty of travel to Beckley for the out-of-town members, and others), and remained in such a state of disbandment until the fall of 1927, when it was reorganized, with Mrs. Leah Mendel (Mrs. Joseph Mendel) as its president; she served in this position until 1928. Mrs. Joe Beckenstein, of Charleston, W. Va., aided in this reorganization of the Beckley Sisterhood. The reorganization meeting was held in the old tea room on South Kanawha St., a few doors south of Main St., where Galperin's Music Store was located in 1954.

The first secretary of the Beckley Sisterhood was Mrs. Rose Y. Pickus (Mrs. Nathan Pickus), who served in this office from 1925 to 1926. She served again as secretary from 1927 to 1928, after the reorganization of the Sisterhood. Other early secretaries of the Beckley Sisterhood included Mrs. Reba Freed (Mrs. David Freed) and Mrs. Naomi A. Pickus (Mrs. James Pickus).

Presidents who succeeded Mrs. Aaron Totz in office in the early years of the Sisterhood's existence included: Mrs. Leah Mendel (Mrs. Joseph Mendel), who served from 1927 to 1928, after its reorganization; and Mrs. Edna B. Goldstein (Mrs. Irving Goldstein), who served about that time for one year.

Other Sisterhood presidents, and the years in which they served in that office, were as follows:

- Mrs. Edna Goldstein (Mrs. Irving Goldstein) (1934-1935)
- Mrs. Ida Lewis (Mrs. Benjamin E. Lewis) (1935-1936)
- Mrs. Bertha Berman Sopher (Mrs. Thomas Sopher) (1936-1937)
- Mrs. Rose Y. Pickus (Mrs. Nathan Pickus) (1937-1938)
- Mrs. Rose Lovitz (the second Mrs. Abe S. Lovitz) (1938-1940)
- Mrs. Anne K. Harvit (Mrs. M. Edward Harvit) (1940-1941)
- Mrs. Faye R. Silverman (Mrs. Bernard E. Silverman) (1941-1942; Mrs. Anne K. Harvit began this term, in 1941, but the balance of the term was filled by Mrs. Silverman).
- Mrs. Violet G. Levine (Mrs. Charles H. Levine) (1942-1943)
- Mrs. Anne K. Harvit (Mrs. M. Edward Harvit) (1943-1944)
- Mrs. Faye R. Silverman (Mrs. Bernard E. Silverman) (1944-1945)
- Mrs. Beatrice C. Binderman (Mrs. William Binderman) (1945-1946)
- Mrs. Minnie G. Samans (Mrs. Herman Samans) (1946-1947)
- Mrs. Ruth L. Abrams (Mrs. A. David Abrams) (1947-1948; part of this term was taken over by Mrs. Faye R. Silverman)
- Mrs. Faye R. Silverman (Mrs. Bernard E. Silverman) (1948-1949)
- Mrs. Minnie G. Samans (Mrs. Herman Samans) (1949-1950)
- Mrs. Dorothy Ellenbogen (Mrs. Archie Ellenbogen) (1950-1951)
- Dr. H. Viola Shlickerman (1951-1952)

Mrs. Irene B. Fink (Mrs. Sidney Fink) (1952-1954)
Mrs. William Binderman (1955-1956)

Sisterhood vice presidents have included the following:

Mrs. Gussie B. Saks (Mrs. Abe Saks) (1937-1938)
Mrs. Bertha B. Sopher (Mrs. Thomas Sopher)
Mrs. Herbert E. Cohen (1941-1942)
Mrs. Violet G. Levine (Mrs. Charles H. Levine) (1945-1946)
Mrs. Sylvia S. Miller (Mrs. Joseph R. Miller) (1953-1954)
Mrs. Ruth W. Saks (Mrs. Bernard L. Saks) (1954-1955)
Mrs. Gussie B. Saks and Mrs. Anne K. Harvit (1955-1956)

The treasurer of the first Beckley Sisterhood was Mrs. Gussie Davis, who served from 1925 to 1926. Other past treasurers of the Beckley Sisterhood included:

Mrs. Gussie B. Saks (Mrs. Abe Saks) (1927-1934)
Mrs. Many S. Binderman (Mrs. Jack Binderman, Sr.)
Mrs. Anne K. Harvit (Mrs. M. Edward Harvit)
Mrs. Beatrice C. Binderman (Mrs. William Binderman)
Mrs. Sylvia Myers (Mrs. Benjamin Myers) (1941-1942)
Mrs. Mary Frances Cohen (Mrs. Herbert E. Cohen) (1943-1950)
Mrs. Zena Y. Hochman (Mrs. Sam Hochman) (1950-1954)
Mrs. Sarah P. Wolman (Mrs. Louis Wolman) (1954-1956)

The secretaries of the Beckley Sisterhood in the past, both corresponding and recording, have included the following:

Mrs. Minnie Samans, corresponding (1945-1946)
Mrs. Charles H. Levine, corresponding (1941-1942)
Mrs. Mildred Milstein (Mrs. Samuel Milstein), recording (1947-1948)
Mrs. Morrie Morganstern (Morgan) (1941-1942)
Mrs. Ruth B. Saymen (Mrs. Edward Saymen), recording (1945-1946)
Mrs. Faye R. Silverman (Mrs. Bernard E. Silverman), recording (1940-1941)
Mrs. May Keiserman (Mrs. Joseph Keiserman)
Mrs. Dorothy Ellenbogen (Mrs. Archie Ellenbogen), corresponding (1953-1955)
Mrs. Ruth W. Saks (Mrs. Bernard L. Saks), recording (1953-1955)
Mrs. Reba Freed (Mrs. David Freed)
Mrs. Estelle Stromberg (Mrs. Sidney Stromberg)
Mrs. Naomi A. Pickus
Mrs. Beatrice C. Binderman, recording (1941-1942)
Mrs. Dorothy Fortunoff (Mrs. Saul Fortunoff), financial (1953-)
Mrs. Mary Frances Cohen (Mrs. Herbert E. Cohen)

At the time of the reorganization of the Beckley Sisterhood, in September, 1927, and in the several years immediately following that

year, the following additional Jewish ladies of Beckley and vicinity joined the Beckley Sisterhood:

Mrs. Berta Adams
 Mrs. Minnie Arnstein (Mrs. David Arnstein)
 Mrs. Manya S. Binderman (Mrs. Jack Binderman, Sr.)
 Mrs. Ida Burk (Mrs. Harry Burk)
 Mrs. Ella Davis (Mrs. Larry Davis)
 Mrs. Reba Freed (Mrs. David Freed)
 Mrs. Edna F. Friedman (Mrs. Aaron Friedman)
 Mrs. Adele Holz
 Mrs. Hilda Holz (Mrs. Helmut Holz)
 Mrs. Ida M. Klein (Mrs. William Klein)
 Mrs. Esther Labovitz (Mrs. Sidney Labovitz)
 Mrs. Ida Lewis (Mrs. Benjamin E. Lewis)
 Mrs. Leah Mendel (Mrs. Joseph Mendel)
 Mrs. Sylvia Myers (Mrs. Benjamin Myers)
 Mrs. Naomi A. Pickus (Mrs. James Pickus)
 Miss Dora Steiner
 Miss Rose Steiner (later Mrs. Max Braum, of Bluefield, W. Va.)
 Mrs. Rachel Stern (Mrs. Arthur Stern)
 Mrs. Celia Wasserkrug (Mrs. Harry Wasserkrug) (Oak Hill, W. Va.)
 Mrs. Norma Webster (who later moved to Charleston, W. Va.; she was the daughter of Ben Hurvitz)

One of the ladies included in the preceding list was a non-Jewish woman who had married a Jewish man. In the course of the history of the Beckley Sisterhood, from 1925 to 1955, several of its members, some of them active in its work, included Gentile women who had married Jewish men, either with or without becoming formally attached (through conversion) to Judaism.

There was a third influx of Jewish women into the Beckley and area community in the last years of the 1920's and in the years from 1931 through 1940, and these later additions and accretions to the membership rolls of the Beckley Sisterhood included the following members:

Mrs. Esther B. Abrams (Mrs. Samuel I. Abrams)
 Mrs. Ruth L. Abrams (Mrs. A. David Abrams)
 Mrs. Beatrice C. Binderman (Mrs. William Binderman)
 Mrs. Meta A. Bornheim (Mrs. Hugo Bornheim) (of Oak Hill, W. Va.)
 Mrs. Betty Cohen (Mrs. Alfred E. Cohen)
 Mrs. Mary Frances Cohen (Mrs. Herbert E. Cohen)
 Mrs. Charles Darvin (none of the Beckley Jewish women, in 1955, any longer remembered the first or given name of Mrs. Charles Darvin; "so short is the memory of man")
 Mrs. Irene B. Fink (Mrs. Sidney Fink)
 Mrs. Sophie W. Fink (Mrs. Israel Fink)
 Mrs. Dora Friedman (Mrs. Sidney Friedman)
 Mrs. Dora C. Front (Mrs. Marc L. Front)
 Mrs. Helen Speller Goldstein (Mrs. Abraham Goldstein)

(This would appear to be an error, for Abraham [Al] Goldstein and his wife, Helen S. Goldstein, did not come to Beckley until 1949, and they left the city in 1951.)

Mrs. Anne K. Harvit (Mrs. M. Edward Harvit)
 Mrs. Sadie Polanski Heller (Mrs. Joseph B. Heller)
 Mrs. Sylvia Heyman (Mrs. Jack Heyman)
 (The Heymans came to Beckley in 1941.)
 Mrs. Tillie M. Hochman (Mrs. Morris Hochman)
 Mrs. Zena Y. Hochman (Mrs. Samuel Hochman)
 Mrs. May Keiserman (Mrs. Joseph Keiserman)
 Mrs. Violet G. Levine (Mrs. Charles H. Levine)
 Mrs. Rose C. Matz (Mrs. Nathan Matz)
 Mrs. Margaret ("Midge") Milstein (Mrs. Samuel Milstein)
 (Mrs. Mildred Milstein?)
 Mrs. Mary Morgan (Mrs. Morris Morgan)
 Mrs. Selma Rubenstein (Mrs. Milton Rubenstein)
 Mrs. Faye R. Silverman (Mrs. Bernard E. Silverman)
 Mrs. Bertha Berman Sopher (Mrs. Thomas Sopher)
 Mrs. Gussie M. Stromberg (Mrs. Charles Stromberg)
 Mrs. Sally Waitzman (Mrs. Henry Waitzman)
 Mrs. Jeanette A. Wein (Mrs. Isadore R. Wein)

The addition of this second accretion or increment of 27 new members and active workers greatly strengthened the Beckley Sisterhood and made it a vital and important force in the Jewish community and in the life of the congregation, both social and religious, giving it a membership in those days of fifty or more ladies. By October, 1942, when the Beckley Sisterhood was hostess for the first time to the State Sisterhood Convention, its membership totalled 31, according to its 1942 Convention booklet; at least, 31 names of Beckley Jewish women are listed there as Beckley Sisterhood members. (It is possible that some names of members were inadvertently omitted from the booklet.)

In November, 1944, Mrs. Leo Goodman, a member of the National Board of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, from New York City, visited Beckley, for the purpose of being present at the Beckley Sisterhood's participation in the burning of the mortgage or note on the Temple, a ceremony and dinner in which the Sisterhood took an official and prominent part.

In September, 1954, as a result of some losses through dropped memberships and through the removal of members from the city or area, the Beckley Sisterhood had about 45 members, including two members in Oak Hill and two in Mount Hope. Instead of a permanent president during the year 1954-1955 (the Beckley Sisterhood's religious year extends from May to May), the Sisterhood had three co-chairmen: Mrs. Beatrice C. Binderman (Mrs. William Binderman), Mrs. Minnie G. Samans (Mrs. Herman Samans), and Mrs. Anne K. Harvit (Mrs. M. Edward Harvit); this was a new (unsuccessful) experiment attempted for the sake of achieving a possibly greater interest, co-operation, and

efficiency, with each of the three co-chairmen serving as chairman or president for a three-month period during the current religious year.

Other officers serving for the year 1954-1955 included the following:

Vice President, Mrs. Ruth W. Saks (Mrs. Bernard L. Saks)
 Recording Secretary, Mrs. Shirley M. Goldstein (Mrs. Arthur Goldstein)
 Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Janet B. Levine (Mrs. Robert H. Levine)
 (Mrs. Robert H. Levine served in this office until late in 1954,
 when her family moved to Charleston, W. Va., to live)
 Financial Secretary, Mrs. Dorothy B. Fortunoff (Mrs. Saul Fortunoff)
 Treasurer, Mrs. Sarah P. Wolman (Mrs. Louis Wolman)
 Acting President from April to June, 1955, Mrs. Ruth W. Saks.

The officers who were elected in April, 1955, for the year 1955-1956, and who took office in May, 1955, were as follows:

Mrs. Beatrice C. Binderman (Mrs. William Binderman), President
 Mrs. Gussie B. Saks (Mrs. Abe Saks), 1st Vice President
 Mrs. Anne K. Harvit (Mrs. M. Edward Harvit), 2nd Vice President
 Mrs. Shirley M. Goldstein (Mrs. Arthur Goldstein), Recording Secretary
 Mrs. Sylvia S. Miller (Mrs. Joseph R. Miller), Corresponding Secretary
 Mrs. Dorothy B. Fortunoff (Mrs. Saul Fortunoff), Financial Secretary
 Mrs. Sarah P. Wolman (Mrs. Louis Wolman), Treasurer

In May, 1955, the following chairmen of committees were appointed by the newly elected president, Mrs. Beatrice C. Binderman, to serve for the year 1955-1956:

BOOK OF LIFE: Mrs. Anne K. Harvit
 BRAILLE: Mrs. Ruth B. Saymen
 BUDGET COMMITTEE: Mrs. Samuel Hochmand, Mrs. Louis Wolman, Mrs. Bernard E. Silverman, Mrs. William Binderman (co-chairmen)
 CRADLE ROLL: Mrs. Hannah H. Selden
 CONSTITUTION: Mrs. Herman Samans, Mrs. Nora B. Franks (co-chairmen)
 NEWSLETTER: Mrs. Ida M. Klein
 ONEG SHABBAS: Mrs. Sylvia S. Miller
 PLANNING: Mrs. Nora B. Franks, Mrs. Anne K. Harvit, Mrs. Bernard E. Silverman (co-chairmen)
 PROGRAM: Mrs. Samuel Hochman
 PUBLICITY: Mrs. Samuel Hochman
 RELIGION: Mrs. Helen L. Shinedling
 STATIONERY: Mrs. Archie Ellenbogen
 TELEPHONE: Mrs. Ida M. Klein, Mrs. Rose R. Baer (co-chairmen)
 UNIONGRAM: Mrs. Charles H. Levine
 VAVS: Mrs. Irene B. Fink
 WELCOME AND MEMBERSHIP: Mrs. Shirley M. Goldstein, Mrs. Louis Wolman, Mrs. Joseph R. Miller (co-chairmen)
 YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Mrs. Ida M. Klein

The Beckley Sisterhood is affiliated with the West Virginia State Federation of Temple Sisterhoods and with the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods; the national headquarters of the latter organization are located in New York City (formerly Cincinnati). State Sisterhood Federation conventions were held in Beckley on October 10-13, 1942 (the 20th annual State Sisterhood Convention), and on October 11-12, 1953 (the 28th annual State Sisterhood Convention).

Mrs. Helen L. Shinedling (Mrs. Abraham I. Shinedling), of Beckley, was for four years (1951-1955) the State Chairman of Religion of the Sisterhood, and she served in this office until October, 1955; in this capacity, with the aid and support of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, she arranged for the State Religious Teachers' Institutes which were held in Parkersburg in 1951 and 1954, in Charleston in 1952, and in Huntington (1953 and 1955). In July, 1955, Mrs. Irene B. Fink's name was placed in nomination for the office of treasurer of the State Federation of Temple Sisterhoods (for a 2-year term, from October, 1955, to October, 1957). In October, 1955, at the Morgantown, W. Va., convention (the 29th) of the State Sisterhood Federation, she was elected State Sisterhood treasurer for the above mentioned two-year term.

According to the program booklet of the 28th Annual State Convention of the West Virginia Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, held at Beckley on October 11 and 12, 1953, of which only a few copies were still extant in 1955, and which convention was held jointly and with the co-operation of the Welch, W. Va., Sisterhood of Temple Emanuel, Mrs. Belle Fields (Mrs. Edward S. Fields, the State President in that year), of Morgantown, W. Va., opened the sessions and presided, and the traditional Claudia Wolf Prayer was invoked by Mrs. May Albert (Mrs. Irving Albert), of Williamson, W. Va. (later elected State President, for 1953-1955). The sermon was delivered by Rabbi Jacob Petuchowski, of Welch, W. Va., and the services were read by Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling, of Beckley. Mrs. Abraham V. Goodman, of Long Island, a member of the National Board of the N. F. T. S., conducted the workshop, addressed the convention, and installed the new officers of the State Federation. The banquet held at the Moose Club in Beckley on Monday evening, October 12, 1953, saw invocations and benedictions delivered by Rabbi Samuel Volkman, of the Virginia Street Temple, in Charleston, and Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling, and the main address delivered by Rabbi Morris M. Rose, of Morgantown, W. Va. Rabbi Herbert J. Wilner, of Congregation Ahavath Sholom, of Bluefield, W. Va., also participated in the convention.

The officers of the Beckley Sisterhood at that time, in October, 1953, comprised the following:

President, Mrs. Irene B. Fink (Mrs. Sidney Fink)
 Vice President, Mrs. Sylvia S. Miller (Mrs. Joseph R. Miller)
 Recording Secretary, Mrs. Ruth W. Saks (Mrs. Bernard L. Saks)
 Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Ellenbogen (Mrs. Archie Ellenbogen)

Treasurer, Mrs. Zena Y. Hochman (Mrs. Samuel Hochman)
 Financial Secretary, Mrs. Dorothy B. Fortunoff (Mrs. Saul Fortunoff)

The 1953-1954 officers of the co-operating Welch Sisterhood of Temple Emanuel were the following:

President, Mrs. Julian Budnick
 First Vice President, Mrs. E. Roston
 Second Vice President, Mrs. B. Herzbrun
 Recording Secretary, Mrs. M. Rosensweig
 Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Isadore Katzen
 Treasurer, Mrs. M. Gottlieb

Mrs. Faye R. Silverman and Mrs. Minnie Samans, together with the president, Mrs. Irene B. Fink, were chairmen of, and arranged for, the 1953 convention of the State Sisterhood.

The First State Convention of the Sisterhood Held in Beckley (1942)

Facts and figures about the 1942 State Sisterhood Convention held in Beckley, according to, and culled from, perhaps the sole surviving or extant copy (in the possession of Mrs. Bernard E. Silverman) that is known to exist in Beckley, included the following data:

The 20th Annual Convention of the West Virginia Federation of Temple Sisterhoods was held at Beckley (principally at Temple Beth El), on October 10th through 13th, 1942. The theme of this convention was "Sisterhood in Defense." Mrs. Bernard E. Silverman was chairman of the Convention, and Mrs. Abe Saks was its co-chairman. Other officers or committee chairmen of the 20th Convention were as follows:

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, Mrs. Nathan Matz
 HOSPITALITY, Mrs. Irving Goldstein and Mrs. Jack Binderman
 REGISTRATION, Mrs. Herbert Cohen, Mrs. William Binderman, and Mrs. Abe Saks
 RESERVATIONS, Mrs. Nathan Matz
 DECORATIONS, Mrs. Tom Sopher and Mrs. William Klein
 PROGRAMS, Mrs. Abe Saks and Mrs. James Pickus
 PUBLICITY, Mrs. Nathan Pickus
 TREASURER, Mrs. Edward Harvit

HOSTESSES: Mrs. Nathan Pickus, Mrs. Ben Lewis, Mrs. Irving Goldstein, Mrs. Charles Levine, Mrs. Tom Sopher, and Mrs. Abe Lovitz.

Participating rabbis at the 1942 convention were:

Rabbi Einhorn, of Clarksburg, W. Va.
 [Rabbi Elliot J. Einhorn]
 Rabbi Julius Kravetz, of Bluefield, W. Va.
 Rabbi George Lieberman, of Wheeling, W. Va.
 Rabbi Alfred Jaspe (Jospe), of Morgantown, W. Va.
 Rabbi Lawrence A. Block, of Huntington, W. Va.
 Rabbi Ariel L. Goldberg, of Charleston, W. Va.

The following served as Chairmen of the Standing Committees of the State Federation of Temple Sisterhoods in 1941-1942:

State Honor Roll: Mrs. Sam Friedberg, Williamson
 Uniongrams: Mrs. A. Fink, Fairmont
 Aid to Refugees: Mrs. Henry Hersch, Parkersburg
 Peace and World Relations, Mrs. Simon Penn, Wheeling
 Young Folks Temple League, Mrs. Nathan Pickus, Beckley
 Cradle Roll: Mrs. S. A. Ardman, Parkersburg
 Stationery: Mrs. Joe Bekenstein, Charleston
 Jewish Ceremonials and Art, Mrs. Bernard Miller, Logan
 President's Message, Mrs. William Caplan, Clarksburg
 Student Activities: Mrs. Godfrey Millstone, Morgantown
 Child Study and Parent Education: Mrs. Ralph Masinter, Huntington
 Hebrew Union College Scholarship: Mrs. Max Michaelson, Welch
 Speakers Bureau: Mrs. Frank Ohlman, Clarksburg
 Religious Schools: Mrs. Sam Rosen, Northfork
 Braille: Mrs. Peter Front, Wheeling
 News Editor: Mrs. Emanuel Bear, Clarksburg
 Religious School Institute: Mrs. Ariel L. Goldberg, Charleston
 Special Committee on War Effort: Mrs. Mark Melman, Logan

The Program of the 1942 State Sisterhood Convention

Sunday, October 11, 1942, 3.00 P. M., Executive Board Meeting, and the opening prayer, delivered by Mrs. Louis Sherman, of Welch.

Supper, 6:30 P. M., at the Beckley Hotel

Invocation, by Rabbi Einhorn, of Clarksburg

Religious Services, 8.30 P. M., at Beth El Temple:

Address of Welcome, by Mrs. Bernard E. Silverman, President of the Beckley Sisterhood, and Convention Chairman

Greetings by Jack Binderman, President of the Beckley Hebrew Association

Greetings by Ed Harvit, President of the Beckley Lodge of the B'nai B'rith

Formal Opening of the Convention, by Mrs. William Caplan, of Clarksburg, President of the State Sisterhood

Religious Services, conducted by Rabbi Julius Kravetz, of Bluefield

Address, by Rabbi George Lieberman, of Wheeling

Benediction by Rabbi Alfred Jospe, of Morgantown

Reception at Temple Beth El, in the Vestry Rooms

Monday, October 12, 1942

Business session, 9.30 A. M., at Temple Beth El, with Mrs. William Caplan, of Clarksburg, Presiding

Claudia Wolfe Prayer, Mrs. Ben Shore, Montgomery

Treasurer's Report, by Mrs. Victor Wormser, Huntington

Auditor's Report, by Mrs. Samson Finn, Morgantown

Minutes of the 1941 Convention, read by Mrs. Nathan Matz, of Beckley,
the Convention Secretary of 1942

Report of the Corresponding Secretary, by Mrs. H. A. Rosenshine,
Clarksburg

Report of the Field Secretary, by Mrs. Ben Shore, Montgomery

Afternoon Session, Monday, October 12, 1942:

1.00 P. M., Luncheon, at Leslie's

Invocation, by Mrs. Samson Finn, Morgantown

Reports of the Convention Committees

Installation of Officers, by Rabbi Lawrence A. Block, of Huntington

Evening Session, Monday, October 12, 1942:

Banquet, at the Beckley Hotel, 7.30 P. M.

Toastmaster, Rabbi Julius Kravetz, of Bluefield, and invocation

Addresses by Rabbi Ariel L. Goldberg, of Charleston, and by Mrs. Hugo
Hartmann, President of the National Federation of Temple
Sisterhoods

Musical and Social Hour, the latter at Temple Beth El

Tuesday, October 13, 1942, 9.00 A. M.: Executive Board Meeting

Saturday, October 10, 1942, 2.00 to 6.00 P. M.

Sunday School Teachers' Training Institute, conducted at Temple
Beth El by Dr. Emanuel Gamoran, of Cincinnati, Educational Director
of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, then at Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dinner *Saturday, October 10, 1942*, at the Beckley Hotel, at 7.00 P.M.

Business Session of the Convention, *Sunday, October 11, 1942*, at
the Temple, from 10.00 A. M. to 2.00 P. M.

Sunday and Monday Night Reception Committee (October 12,
1942, at Temple Beth El):

Mrs. Abe Lovitz
Mrs. Joe Keiserman
Mrs. William Klein
Mrs. Ben Myers
Mrs. Ed Saymen

Mrs. Morris Hochman
Mrs. Dave Arnstein
Mrs. Harry Abel
Mrs. J. Silverberg

Mrs. Helmut Holz was chairman of entertainment at the
Convention.

West Virginia Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, State Officers, 1941-1942

PRESIDENT—Mrs. William Caplan, Clarksburg, W. Va.
 1ST VICE PRESIDENT—Mrs. Joe Bekenstein, Charleston, W. Va.
 2ND VICE PRESIDENT—Mrs. Sidney Kwass, Bluefield, W. Va.
 RECORDING SECRETARY—Mrs. Nathan Matz, Beckley, W. Va.
 CORRESPONDING SECRETARY—Mrs. A. J. Rosenshine, Clarksburg, W. Va.
 TREASURER—Mrs. Victor Wormser, Huntington, W. Va.
 AUDITOR—Mrs. Samson Finn, Morgantown, W. Va.
 FIELD SECRETARY—Mrs. Ben Shore, Montgomery, W. Va.

Officers of the Beckley Sisterhood, for the Year 1941-1942:

PRESIDENT—Mrs. Bernard E. Silverman
 VICE PRESIDENT—Mrs. Herbert Cohen
 RECORDING SECRETARY—Mrs. William Binderman
 CORRESPONDING SECRETARY—Mrs. Charles Levine
 TREASURER—Mrs. Ben Myers
 FINANCIAL SECRETARY—Mrs. Morrie Morganstern (Morgan)

Roster of the Beckley Sisterhood Members in 1941-1942

Mrs. H. Abel (Mount Hope)	Mrs. Ben Lewis (Oak Hill)
Mrs. S. Abrams	Mrs. S. Labovitz
Mrs. D. Arnstein	Mrs. N. Matz
Mrs. N. Berman	Mrs. J. Pickus
Mrs. I. Burke (Mrs. L. Burk)	Mrs. L. Pickus
Mrs. J. Binderman	Mrs. N. Pickus
Mrs. I. Goldstein	Mrs. S. Rudin
Mrs. M. Harvit	Mrs. A. Saks
Mrs. J. Heller	Mrs. E. Saymen
Mrs. M. Hochman	Mrs. J. Silverberg
Mrs. H. Holz	Mrs. T. Sophor
Mrs. J. Keiserman	Mrs. Charles Stromberg
Mrs. William Klein	Mrs. H. Wasserkrug (Oak Hill)
Mrs. Abe Lovitz	Mrs. S. Wasserkrug
Mrs. Al Lovitz (Mount Hope)	Mrs. M. Wender (Mrs. Max Wender)
Mrs. Ben E. Lewis	

(31 members listed in the 1942 Convention Program Book for the year 1941-1942)

Note! It is of more than passing interest that from this list of 31 members of the Beckley Sisterhood found in the 1942 Convention Program Book, for the year 1941-1942, the names of 6 members of the Sisterhood were inadvertently and unintelligibly omitted. These 6 additional members, who in that year (1941-1942) actually served as officers of the Beckley Sisterhood or on the various committees of the Sisterhood for the year 1941-1942, were as follows:

Mrs. William Binderman (Mrs. Beatrice C. Binderman)
 Mrs. Herbert E. Cohen (Mrs. Mary Frances Newman Cohen)
 Mrs. Charles Levine (Mrs. Violet G. Levine)

Mrs. Morrie Morganstern (Morgan) (Mrs. Mary Morganstern)
 Mrs. Ben Myers (Mrs. Sylvia Myers)
 Mrs. Bernard E. Silverman (Mrs. Faye R. Silverman)

[The last-named was actually the *President* of the Beckley Sisterhood in that year, 1941-1942!!!]

(These 6 additional members, whose names should have been included, would raise the roster of members of the Beckley Sisterhood in the year 1941-1942 to a total of 37 members, instead of the 31 now listed in the Program Booklet for that year. It is also obvious that in that year, 1941-1942, there were a number of other Jewish women living in Beckley who were not members of the Sisterhood, for a variety of reasons!)

(Note the formal, abrupt way of listing the membership, by the initials of the husbands, not by the husbands' full names, or by the given names of the members themselves. Of the 31 Sisterhood members listed, even the given names of only 6 of the 31 husbands are listed. This may have been the abrupt style prevailing in 1942. It is not too good a method, however, for the historian.)

Of interest is the Donors' Page of the 1942 Convention Book, containing the following names of Jewish donors to the booklet:

Mr. and Mrs. William Binderman	Mr. and Mrs. Morrie Morganstern
Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Cohen	Mr. and Mrs. Ed Saymen
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Harvit	Mr. and Mrs. J. Silverberg
Mr. and Mrs. Helmut Holz	Dr. and Mrs. B. E. Silverman
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Keiserman	Mr. and Mrs. Tom Sopher
Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Labovitz	Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stromberg
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Levine	Mr. and Mrs. Max Wender
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Lewis	Mr. Irwin Abrams

(and their families)

Advertisements by Jewish-Owned Business Houses in the 1942 Program Book:

President Hotel (leased by Nathan Matz)
 Nat Berman Co. (scrap metal dealers)
 Silver Brand Clothes (not locally owned)
 Modern Furniture Company (owned by Sam Abrams)
 Embee's (not locally owned)
 Abe's Army Store (owned by Abe Saks)
 Vogue Store of Beckley (owned by Louis J. Fink)
 Cohen Drug Store (not locally owned)
 Kay's Drug Store (owned by Milton Epstein)
 Lewis Furniture Company (not locally owned)
 People's Finance Co. and the Union Store (owned by Irving Goldstein)
 Quality Shop (owned by James Pickus)
 Marie's Shop (owned by Samuel Wasserkrug)

The following members of the Beckley Jewish Community had printed notices of greetings or compliments in the 1942 Sisterhood Convention Program Book:

(The symbol * indicates that the person is now deceased.)

(The symbol † indicates that the person no longer resides in Beckley.)

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Binderman

*Mr. and †Mrs. *Sid Danbury

*Mr. and Mrs. Dave Arnstein

†Mr. and †Mrs. Abe Lovitz

†Mr. and *Mrs. Louis Pickus

Other business institutions and houses in Beckley which advertised, or conveyed greetings or compliments to the State Federation of Temple Sisterhoods in the 1942 Convention Book, included:

Fashion Shop (Main Street)

Beckley Hardware & Supply Company

Cannon Shoe Store (Main Street)

Dr. R. W. Chambers (candidate for membership on the Board of Education for a 6-year term)

Murphy's (Main Street, J. S. Fisher, Manager)

Dr. Clarke Kessel

W. T. Grant Co.

Eatwell Cafe

Dr. C. G. Casto

Beckley National Bank (J. L. Smith and French Lucas)

Appalachian Electric Power Co.

Pastry Shop

Lyric Motion Picture Playhouse

Raleigh County Bank

Raleigh Coca-Cola Bottling Works, 700 South Oakwood Ave.

George's Ladies' Apparel Store

Watkins Drug Store

Snow Thornton Florists

Tim's Shoe Shining and Hat Cleaning

Beckley Cafe

Henry Conway, Hardware

Beckley Insurance Agency (H. U. Sloan and E. L. Norris)

Beckley Water Co.

Beckley Hotel

Tip-Top Ice Cream Shop

Mary V. Conway

The Raleigh Steam Laundry

The Town Shop (109 Main St.)

Dr. K. M. Jarrell

Wilke's Insurance Agency

Artiste Beauty Salon

Kew-Bee Bakers
Central Cafe
Beckley Machine & Electric Co.

Note: The authors have chosen to excerpt every possible scrap and bit of information from this 1942 State Convention Book of the West Virginia State Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, in the thought that in years to come these data will prove of interest to the Jewish and general community of Beckley, and because, so far as the authors have been able to ascertain, only one single copy (250 copies of the program booklet of the Convention were printed in 1942) of this 12-page, 12 by 9 inch book or booklet is now (1955) extant, that furnished them by Mrs. Bernard E. Silverman. The pages are not numbered, and the front and back covers are of thicker, heavier, gold-colored paper; the printing on the outside front cover is in blue, blue and gold being the official colors of the West Virginia State Sisterhood Federation. The front outside cover reads as follows:

WEST VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

(Seal of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods and of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, with an inner circle containing a Replica of the Ten Commandments, and the Hebrew words for: "The Study of the Law Is Equivalent to All the Rest")

20TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

--THEME--

"Sisterhood in Defense"

BECKLEY, W. VA.

October 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 1942

The outside back cover is blank, except for the notation:

Independent Publishing Co., Beckley, West Virginia

Allied Printing Trades Council, Beckley, W. Va.

Union Label

The Work and Activities of the Beckley Sisterhood

In addition to its usual and important work of supporting the Religious School of the congregation, and of paying the moderate salaries (\$5 per month) of the Religious School teachers ever since its inception, the Beckley Sisterhood assumes the burden of the expense of the janitorial service and of payment for all textbooks, schoolbooks, and supplies used

in the Religious School. In 1948-1949 the Beckley Sisterhood renovated the kitchen of the Temple building, and in 1952 it supplied the Temple proper and the Vestry Rooms and classrooms with new drapes, as well as the office (the rabbi's study). As mentioned above, in 1944 it helped the congregation pay off the mortgage, or loan, on the Temple building, and in 1952-1953 it purchased for the congregation a new piano, for use in the Vestry Rooms, for the use of the Religious School for dancing instruction, and for Purim, Chanukah, and other festival programs, and for recital purposes. In the summer of 1954, the Beckley Sisterhood contributed a large sum of money (\$800) for the repainting, repairing, and reflooring of the Temple, and for other needed repairs. In 1954 to 1955, the Beckley Sisterhood was pledged to raise (and raised) the sum of \$1,000 (partly through the work of its individual members and of its several circles), in addition to its normal annual budget, for the maintenance of the Temple and of its affiliated groups, and for its own needs. In the year extending from May, 1955, to May, 1956, the Beckley Sisterhood undertook to raise and contribute another sum of \$1,000 towards the annual budget of Congregation Beth El.

When the Beckley Sisterhood was first organized (in 1925, and then again in 1927), meetings were held in the homes of some of the members. Some of these meetings were dinner meetings held for the purpose of raising funds earmarked for the specific purpose of eventually building a synagogue structure and of founding an actual congregation in Beckley. Today, all meetings, including dinner and special occasion meetings and celebrations, are held in the Temple Vestry Rooms, except that once in a while, for a variety of reasons, dinner meetings or convention meetings of too large a scope to be held in the Temple proper, with its seating capacity of about a hundred persons for dinners and the like, are held in the Moose Club, the Elks Club, the Beckley Hotel, the El Chico Restaurant, and the like.

One day a month, during World War II (1942-1945), the Beckley Sisterhood was in charge of the Community Canteen for service men and women, located at the Service Center at the Beckley Bus Terminal on Prince Street, at the corner of North Heber St. Mrs. Faye R. Silverman was chairman of this committee.

Since its very inception, the Sisterhood has supported the Religious School of the community, even before there was an organized congregation, paying the salaries of the teachers and of the janitor or janitress, and buying all the books, textbooks, and religious supplies required for the proper conduct of the Religious School, and co-operating with the several rabbis of the congregation in this regard. It organized and held many a Thanksgiving Eve dinner party or social, many a New Year's Eve or Hallowe'en Eve dinner party, dance, or social, many a post-Yom Kippur dinner party or gathering, and various other affairs, social, religious, cultural, and literary, including paid book reviews, for the purpose of raising funds for the covering of the annual budget of the Sisterhood, or for the building and maintenance of the Temple building, both since and before 1935-1936. The Beckley Sisterhood also donated annual sums

of money to various local charities, hospitals, and organizations, and it raised funds for such organizations as the Raleigh County Cancer Society, both alone and with other churches or local groups, in the form of parties, teas, card parties, and the like. Also, for several years, especially from 1950 to 1954, the Beckley Sisterhood participated actively, financially and personally, in the Raleigh County Blood Bank.

The following Jewish women of the community are members of the Beckley Woman's Club: Dora C. Front, Rose C. Matz, Rose Y. Pickus, Edna B. Goldstein, Helen L. Shinedling, and Minnie G. Samans.

Ruth L. Abrams is a member of the Junior Woman's Club of Beckley.

For two years after he came to Beckley in 1950, Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling gave a course of lectures on Bible and comparative religion under the auspices of the Beckley Sisterhood. He also began an adult Hebrew class in 1952, which meets twice a month for a two-hour session of study of the Hebrew language and the prayer-book; the class numbered three adult students in June, 1955.

The Beckley Sisterhood has always taken, and still takes, part in the general cultural, institutional, and philanthropic work of the local general community. It has annual representation, and has performed a great deal of service, on the VAVS Committee of the Beckley Veterans Administration Hospital and on the Women's Committee of the National Jewish Welfare Board. It aids in the work of Pinecrest Sanitarium, of which Rabbi Shinedling is the Jewish chaplain for Jewish patients. It sponsored and paid the expenses of the monthly and semi-monthly visits made by Rabbi Shinedling to the Federal Reformatory for Women at Alderson, W. Va., as chaplain to the Jewish inmates there, for the two years from September, 1951, through August, 1953, when this project and service were taken over by the State Federation of Temple Sisterhoods. It also donated eight English Bible translations and eight copies of the *Union Prayer Book*, Volume I, to the library of the Federal Reformatory for Women at Alderson, for the general use of the inmates and for the specific use of the Jewish inmates at the religious services conducted by Rabbi Shinedling. In 1952 and 1953, and also previously, the Beckley Sisterhood donated the Passover Matzos used by the Jewish inmates at Alderson. From 1951 through 1954 (September, 1954, when Rabbi Shinedling discontinued his monthly visits to Alderson), there were from 7 to 9 Jewish woman inmates confined at Alderson.

During World War II, also, the Beckley Sisterhood assisted in the entertainment of, and in the hospitality shown to, American servicemen at the Ashford General Hospital (the Greenbrier Hotel), at White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., and it sent gifts and books to Hopemont, W. Va. (the children's tubercular sanitarium) and to Pinecrest Sanitarium, as well as to the Raleigh County Library. The Beckley Sisterhood founded the Pinecrest Library, about the year 1930, with Mrs. Rose Y. Pickus as chairman of this committee and active agent in effecting the creation of this library.

For several years, the Beckley Sisterhood annually sponsored a patient at Pinecrest Sanitarium, and, beginning in 1951, it has supported the dental clinic at Pinecrest Sanitarium, in which one of its members, and a past president, Dr. H. Viola Shlickerman, is greatly interested. In addition to this, the Beckley Sisterhood contributes to a number of local charities and social and educational institutions, including the Red Cross, the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts, the Cancer Society, the Tuberculosis and Crippled Children Associations, and many others. Many of its members are affiliated with, and active in, the work of the Women's Club, the Civinettes, the League of Women Voters, and other general associations and organizations of Beckley and Raleigh County, including several music groups and associations.

The Beckley Sisterhood sponsors and financially assists the local Temple Youth Group, and aids in the sending of delegates from these groups, including the rabbi and his wife, to the various Temple Youth Group conclaves (tri-state and regional) held within the State. It also sponsors an Oneg Shabbas sociable at the Temple every first Friday night of the month, after the religious services, as well as the occasional open forum discussions held at these Oneg Shabbas affairs, and it sponsors the Saturday morning religious service and the Religious School sessions on Sunday morning through a system of rotating visits made by its members. It also sponsors and pays for the annual Religious School picnic, held late in May or early in June, after the closing exercises of the Religious School year; the annual Chanukah and Purim plays and entertainments which are held at the Temple each year on the Sunday during Chanukah or on the Sunday closest to Purim; and each year, at the end of March, in connection with Isaac Mayer Wise Sabbath, usually on the last Friday night in March, it holds and conducts a Friday night service at the Temple—Sisterhood Sabbath—with its members conducting the entire service, and with one of them delivering the annual message, or sermon, from the pulpit.

In the religious year extending from October, 1955, to June, 1956, the Beckley Sisterhood approved and sponsored (as approved also by the Temple Board of Directors) a religious-cultural program which provided for the inviting of non-Jewish local ministers to deliver sermons or lectures in the Temple on the first Friday night of each month, which is Sisterhood Oneg Shabbas night. These lectures or sermons on Sisterhood Oneg Shabbas night were to be followed by a social hour of hospitality provided by the Beckley Sisterhood, and by an open forum or a question-and-answer period conducted by the guest minister. These religious services, like all religious services held in Temple Beth El, were open to the general public. Thus, on Friday evening, November 4, 1955, Dr. Wayne F. Ransom, district superintendent of the Methodist Church, in Beckley, the first guest speaker in this year's program, spoke in the Temple on the subject, "The United Nations and Religious Idealism." On Friday night, December 2, 1955, Dr. John B. F. Yoak, Jr., pastor of the Methodist Temple, in Beckley, came to Temple Beth El as the guest speaker, his subject being, "Windows Toward God." In 1955-1956 Mrs.

Sylvia S. Miller was chairman of the Oneg Shabbas Committee of the Sisterhood.

Other local ministers, all of them members of the Beckley Ministerial Association, who were scheduled to be guest speakers at these monthly first-Friday-night-of-the-month Sisterhood Oneg Shabbas religious services, were: the Rev. Dr. Carden A. Hillman, pastor of the First Methodist Church, and Protestant chaplain at the Beckley VA Hospital; Dr. James W. Witherspoon, minister of the Beckley Presbyterian Church; the Rev. O. Worth May, pastor of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church; Dr. Alvin J. Cook, pastor of the First Baptist Church, and president (in 1955) of the Beckley Ministerial Association; the Rev. Thomas M. Waldron, pastor of the First Assembly of God Church (and vice president of the Ministerial Association for the year 1955); Dr. A. H. Wilson, pastor of the First Christian Church; and the Rev. Corey O. Mitchell, minister of the Ebenezer Baptist Church; also Dr. W. H. Foglesong, pastor emeritus of the Methodist Temple.

In the years from 1950 to 1955, since he has been rabbi of Congregation Beth El, in Beckley, Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling was invited on a large number of occasions to be guest speaker or guest preacher in the churches of these and other local ministers, before the congregations themselves, or before Bible and study groups, ladies' auxiliaries, and men's groups or clubs of these several churches, as well as for special occasions.

Finally, the Beckley Sisterhood sponsors and helps pay the expenses of a Temple Youth Group delegate or representative at Tri-State and regional meetings or conventions of the National Federation of Temple Youth, and at B'nai B'rith and U. A. H. C. summer camps and institutes. In 1954, thus, the Beckley Sisterhood and the B'nai B'rith of the city co-operated in sending a Temple Youth Group member (Robert B. Harvit) to the Nifty camp held at Starlake, Pa., for two weeks, and in 1955 the Beckley Sisterhood sent a member of the local Temple Youth Group to the camp of Nifty, at Oconomowoc, Wis. (Philip M. Binderman) for two weeks.

The First Annual Yearbook of the Beckley Sisterhood

In 1945, for the year 1945-1946, the Beckley Sisterhood published its First Annual Yearbook, from which the following interesting data have been culled:

Sisterhood Prayer: "Our Heavenly Father, we unite today in purpose and prayer to ask Thy assistance to aid us in promoting the spirit of religion. Help us, O Lord, to realize the importance of bringing religion into our homes, so that it will be a religion of every day, and inspire us with a sense of our responsibilities in these homes.

"May we, Mothers and Daughters in Israel, work in harmony in this great cause, drawing our inspiration from Thee, All-Kind Father, whence all good comes. Amen."

A Collect for Sisterhood Members (to be read by each member at each Sisterhood meeting, collectively):

"Keep us, O God, from pettiness, let us be large in thought, in word, in deed. Let us be done with faultfinding and leave off self-seeking. May we put away all pretense and meet each other face to face, without self-pity and without prejudice.

"May we never be hasty in judgment and always be generous. Let us take time for all things; make us grow calm, serene and gentle.

"Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid. Grant that we may realize it is the little things that create differences; that in the big things of life we are as one.

"And may we strive to touch and to know the great common woman's heart of us all; and, O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind. Amen."

The Officers for the Year 1945-1946:

President, Mrs. William Binderman
First Vice President, Mrs. Charles Levine
Second Vice President, Mrs. Thomas Sopher
Recording Secretary, Mrs. Edward Saymen
Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Herman Samans
Treasurer, Mrs. Herbert Cohen
Financial Secretary, Mrs. Archie Ellenbogen

Executive Board:
Mrs. William Binderman
Mrs. Charles Levine
Mrs. Thomas Sopher
Mrs. Edward Saymen
Mrs. Herbert Cohen
Mrs. Archie Ellenbogen
Mrs. Edward Harvit
Mrs. Nathan Pickus
Mrs. B. E. Silverman
Mrs. Herman Samans
Rabbi Jacob G. Soshuk

Chairmen of Standing Committees in 1945-1946:

Welfare, Mrs. Charles Levine
Uniongram, Mrs. Edward Harvit
Stationery, Mrs. Edward Saymen
Messenger, Mrs. Herbert Cohen
Publicity, Mrs. Nathan Pickus
Red Cross (Sewing and Knitting), Mrs. Jack Binderman
Annual Red Cross Drive, Mrs. I. Rich
Custodian, Mrs. Theodore Rosenbaum
Membership, Mrs. Ben Lewis

War Activities, Mrs. B. E. Silverman
 Program, Mrs. Nathan Pickus
 Aid to Refugees, Mrs. Morris Hochman
 Ceremonials and Arts, Mrs. J. Leonard Baer
 Child Study and Parent Education, Mrs. Arthur Stern
 Cradle Roll, Mrs. Charles Stromberg
 Literary, Mrs. Herman Samans
 Birthday, Mrs. Max Meltcher
 Fund Raising, Mrs. Thomas Sopher
 Braille (for the blind), Mrs. Irving Goldstein
 Tea Hostess, Mrs. J. B. Heller
 Religious, Rabbi Jacob G. Soshuk

Membership of the Beckley Sisterhood in the Year 1945-1946:
(46 members in 1945-1946)

Mrs. Harry Abel (Mount Hope)	Mrs. Henry Miller
Mrs. Sam Abrams	Mrs. Jake Miller
Mrs. Dave Arnstein	Mrs. Morrie Morgan (Whitesville,
Mrs. J. Leonard Baer	W. Va.)
Mrs. Nat Berman	Mrs. James Pickus
Mrs. Jack Binderman	Mrs. Louis Pickus
Mrs. William Binderman	Mrs. Nathan Pickus
Mrs. Alfred Cohen	Mrs. Isadore Rich
Mrs. Herbert Cohen	Mrs. Eric Rosenbaum
Mrs. Sydney Danbury	Mrs. Theodore Rosenbaum
Mrs. Archie Ellenbogen	Mrs. Abe Saks
Mrs. Marc Front	Mrs. Herman Samans
Mrs. Irving Goldstein	Mrs. Edward Saymen
Mrs. Edward Harvit	Dr. H. Viola Shlickerman
Mrs. J. B. Heller	Mrs. Jacob Silverberg
Mrs. Morris Hochman	Mrs. B. E. Silverman
Mrs. Joseph Keiserman (Oak Hill)	Mrs. Arthur Stern
Mrs. William Klein	Mrs. Tom Sopher
Mrs. Sydney Labovitz	Mrs. Harry Stromberg
Mrs. Charles Levine	Mrs. Charles Stromberg
Mrs. Ben Lewis	Mrs. Harry Wasserkrug (Oak Hill)
Mrs. Alfred Lovitz (Mount Hope)	Mrs. Max Wender
Mrs. Nathan Matz	Mrs. Isadore Wein
Mrs. Max Meltcher	

During the year 1945-1946 the Beckley Sisterhood, from September 25, 1945, through June 11, 1946, held the following affairs under its program of Sisterhood Activities Calendar:

Opening Meeting
 Benefit Bridge
 Membership Tea
 Congregational Dinner (three; one for Thanksgiving Day)
 Rummage Sale
 Chanukah entertainment and dinner

Dinner dance
Bingo party
Uniongram party
Purim dinner
Passover Seder
Mother's Day Program and Dinner
Annual closing luncheon
eight regular meetings.

(In those years, the Beckley Sisterhood apparently held meetings twice a month; in 1955, meetings were held only every month, generally on the first Wednesday night of each month from September through June; executive board meetings were held also at intervals throughout the entire year.)

Special features and speakers of the Beckley Sisterhood meetings from September, 1945, to June, 1946, included:

Rabbi Jacob G. Soshuk, address and book review
two musicales
C. G. Perego, principal of Woodrow Wilson High School
Mrs. Basil Minter, former instructor at the Federal Reformatory for Women, at Alderson, W. Va., subject: "Suggestions Toward a More Complete Rehabilitation"
Mrs. T. C. Moorefield, executive secretary, of the American Red Cross
Mrs. R. L. Maxwell, subject: "The Constitution of the United States"
Mrs. Sydney Labovitz, Jewish folk songs
Dr. Henrietta Marquis, "Cancer Control"
Herman Samans, violinist
Margaret T. Davis, musicale

The 1945-1946 First Annual Yearbook of the Beckley Sisterhood lists the former members of the Sisterhood in that year as follows:

(in parentheses, the places where they were living in 1945-1946)

Mrs. Berta Adams (Charleston, W. Va.)
Mrs. Jacob Bloom (Miami Beach, Fla.)
Mrs. Isador Binderman (Brooklyn, N. Y.)
Mrs. Hugo Bornheim (Oak Hill, W. Va.)
Mrs. Ida Burk (Newport News, Va.)
Mrs. Lou Colton (Pittsburgh, Pa.)
Mrs. Bob Davis (Newport News, Va.)
Mrs. Ella Davis (Washington, D. C.)
Mrs. Robert Dubin (Brooklyn, N. Y.)
Mrs. I. Fink (Portsmouth, Va.)
Mrs. Hyman Fisher (Rainelle, W. Va.)
Mrs. Aaron Friedman (Welch, W. Va.)
Mrs. Sydney Friedman (Welch, W. Va.)
Mrs. L. J. Fink (Beckley, W. Va.)
Mrs. Dave Freed (Charleston, W. Va.)
Mrs. Charles (Flora) Greenfield (Petersburg, Va.)
Mrs. Jerry Greenfield (Cincinnati, Ohio)

Mrs. Sylvia Heyman (Mrs. Jack Heyman) (Baltimore, Md.)
 Mrs. Helmut Holz (Charleston, W. Va.)
 Mrs. Adele Holz (Charleston, W. Va.)
 Mrs. Abe Lovitz (Miami, Fla.)
 Mrs. Leah Mendel (Charleston, W. Va.)
 Mrs. Maurice Mendel (Ashland, Ky.)
 Mrs. Ben Myers (Houston, Texas)
 Mrs. Selma Rubenstein (Lima, Ohio)
 Mrs. Aaron Totz (Baltimore, Md.)
 Mrs. Sam Wasserkrug (Washington, D. C.)
 Mrs. Nathan Wolfe (Long Island, N. Y.)

The Sisterhood Constitution of 1945-1946:

ARTICLE I — NAME

The name of this organization shall be known as the Beckley Sisterhood.

ARTICLE II — PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization is to bind together for religious, philanthropic, civic, cultural, social, educational and recreational purposes. It is to be an auxiliary of the Beth El Temple of Beckley, W. Va.

ARTICLE III — OFFICERS

The officers of this organization shall be President, First and Second Vice-Presidents, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer. The officers shall be elected for a period of two years.

[Later changed to one-year terms of office]

ARTICLE IV — EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board shall consist of the present officers, the past president, the religious chairman, the fund-raising chairman, and the program chairman.

ARTICLE V — DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The duties of the President shall be to preside at all regular and Executive Board meetings, to appoint standing and temporary committees as are necessary to further the interests of the organization.

The duties of the First Vice-President are to perform the duties of the President in her absence. The Second Vice-President is next in line in the absence of the President and the First Vice-President.

The Recording Secretary shall keep a well-bound book of the minutes of the proceedings of all meetings, and [is] to read at each regular and special meeting the minutes, motions and resolutions of the previous meeting to all members assembled.

The Corresponding Secretary shall attend to the correspondence of the organization. She is to read all important communications received

by the organization, and to send notices to the membership of all meetings.

The Financial Secretary shall keep in a well-bound book a record of the membership dues, and shall collect said dues and issue receipts of same to paid members in good standing.

The Treasurer shall keep a record of all receipts and disbursements, and shall make an itemized statement to the organization at each meeting. She shall disburse the funds by direction of the organization.

ARTICLE VI — DUES

The fiscal year of the organization shall begin in September, at which time all dues should be paid. The annual dues shall be \$3.50 per member, which constitutes national and state dues.

ARTICLE VII — QUORUM

Twelve members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting the business of a regular meeting.

ARTICLE VIII — MEETINGS

The regular meetings of this organization shall be held on the last Tuesday night of each month at 8:00 P.M. at the Temple Beth El, excepting the months of June, July, and August.

ARTICLE IX — CONSTITUTION

The Constitution of the Beckley Sisterhood may be changed at any regular business meeting upon two-thirds vote of the membership present.

ARTICLE X

All questions and disputes that may arise during the course of any business meeting, regular or special, shall be decided in accordance with Roberts' Rules of Order.

The provisions of this Constitution of 1945-1946 were changed in several respects in the year 1951-1952, and in 1955 a complete revision and reworking of the Constitution were scheduled, as entrusted to a special constitutional committee.

Amendments

The original constitution of the Beckley Sisterhood was patterned after the model constitution provided to constituent member Sisterhoods by the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods. In the years from 1926 on the Beckley Sisterhood Constitution underwent a number of amendments, one such providing for the raising of the annual dues to \$5.50 per annum (about 1952) for each member; another providing for the holding of meetings only once a month, on the first Wednesday night of each month; and several providing for the increase of dues paid by the local Sisterhood to the State Federation and to the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods; and many other provisions. Much of this material, once held in the Sisterhood records, has been misplaced or lost, and is now no longer extant.

The Beckley Sisterhood Program Booklet for 1951-1952

In September, 1951, the Beckley Sisterhood issued, in typed form, and with yellow front and back covers, a program booklet for the year 1951-1952, of which only a few copies were still extant in Beckley in 1955, and from which the following data with regard to the year 1951-1952 have been culled:

OFFICERS FOR 1951-1952:

President: Dr. H. Viola Shlickerman
 Vice President: Mrs. Bernard E. Silverman
 Treasurer: Mrs. Sam Hochman
 Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Max H. Wender
 Recording Secretary: Mrs. Bernard L. Saks
 Financial Secretary: Mrs. Edward Saymen

CHAIRMEN FOR 1951-1952 OF THE SEVERAL COMMITTEES:

World Union for Progressive Judaism Activities: Mrs. Joseph R. Miller
 Budget Committee: Mrs. Archie Ellenbogen, Mrs. Sam Hochman, Mrs. Nathan Pickus (co-chairmen)
 Religious Committee: Mrs. Abraham I. Shinedling
 Uniongram: Mrs. Eric Rosenbaum
 Stationery: Mrs. Charles H. Levine
 Braille: Mrs. William Binderman
 Program: Mrs. Nathan Pickus, Mrs. Herman Samans (co-chairmen)
 Cradle Roll: Mrs. Robert H. Levine
 National Jewish Welfare Board: Mrs. Bernard E. Silverman
 Newsletter: Mrs. Albert Schwartz
 Publicity: Mrs. A. David Abrams
 Book of Life: Mrs. Anne K. Harvit
 Peace and World Relations: Mrs. Isadore R. Wein

Fund Raising Chairmen:

Bazaar: Mrs. Harry Stromberg
 Rummage Sales: Mrs. Israel Fink, Mrs. Joseph B. Heller, Mrs. Archie Ellenbogen, Mrs. Morris Hochman
 Thanksgiving Dance: Mrs. Israel Fink
 Card Parties: Mrs. William Klein, Mrs. Sam Hochman

BECKLEY SISTERHOOD MEMBERSHIP IN 1951-1952 (46 members):

Mrs. Harry Abel (Mount Hope)	Mrs. Archie Ellenbogen
Mrs. A. David Abrams	Mrs. Israel Fink
Mrs. Samuel Abrams	Mrs. Louis J. Fink
Mrs. J. Leonard Baer	Mrs. Sidney Fink
Mrs. Nathan Berman	Mrs. Marc L. Front
Mrs. Jack Binderman, Sr.	Mrs. Irving Goldstein
Mrs. William Binderman	Mrs. M. Edward Harvit
Mrs. Hugo Bornheim (Oak Hill)	Mrs. Joseph B. Heller
Mrs. Herbert E. Cohen	Mrs. Morris Hochman

Mrs. Samuel Hochman	Mrs. Abe Saks
Mrs. Edward Kandell	Mrs. Bernard Saks
Mrs. William Klein	Mrs. Herman Samans
Mrs. Charles Levine	Mrs. Edward Saymen
Mrs. Robert Levine	Mrs. Albert Schwartz
Mrs. Ben Lewis (Beckley)	Mrs. Abraham I. Shinedling
Mrs. Ben Lewis (Mount Hope)	Dr. H. Viola Shlickerman
Mrs. Nathan Matz	Mrs. Jacob Silverberg
Mrs. Joseph R. Miller	Mrs. Bernard E. Silverman
Mrs. James Pickus	Mrs. Harold Sopher
Mrs. Nathan Pickus	Mrs. Charles Stromberg
Mrs. Eric Rosenbaum	Mrs. Harry Stromberg
Mrs. Theodore Rosenbaum	Mrs. Isadore R. Wein
Mrs. Harold Rudin	Mrs. Max H. Wender

ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED FOR, AND HELD IN, 1951-1952:

November 7, 1951: Presidents' Tea

Mrs. Fred Souder, Soloist

Miss Topsy O'Dell, Speaker, President of the Beckley League of Women Voters

December 5, 1951: Business Meeting

Dr. Paul Vaughn, Speaker, subject, "Narcotics"

January 2, 1952: Business Meeting

Mrs. Maurice Selden, speaker, subject, "Chanukah"

Soloist: Miss Beverly Samans, Jewish Medley

February 6, 1952: Business Meeting

Mrs. James W. Witherspoon, book review, "He Who Walks Alone"

March 5, 1952: Social Meeting, Pot Luck Supper

Card Games

April 2, 1952: Business and Program Meeting

Youth Program, directed by Mrs. Abraham I. Shinedling

Nomination of Officers for the Year 1952-1953

May 7, 1952: Business and Program Meeting

Presentation of the slate of new officers

Mothers' Day Program

June 2, 1952: Closing Meeting

Dinner and Installation of Officers

State Federation of Temple Sisterhoods guest speaker

(Hostesses served refreshments at every meeting during 1951-1952, each Sisterhood member having a turn to do this in the course of the year.)

The Second Beckley State Sisterhood Convention
The Beckley-Welch Convention, October 11-12, 1953
(Temple Beth El, of Beckley, and Temple Emanuel, of Welch)

The second Beckley convention of the State Sisterhood, the Beckley-Welch Convention, was held in Beckley, principally at the Beth El Temple and at the Beckley Hotel, on October 11 and 12, 1953. The theme of this convention was: "Our Hands Serve Humanity."

One session, or function, was held at the Moose Club, and one at the El Chico Restaurant.

The chief features of the program of this convention were:

Sunday, October 11, 1953

- 11:00 A. M. Executive Board Meeting
- 2:30 P. M. Business Session, Temple Beth El
 Formal opening of the convention, by Mrs. Edward S. (Belle) Fields, of Morgantown, President of the West Virginia Federation of Temple Sisterhoods
 Claudia Wolf Prayer, Mrs. Irving Albert, Williamson
 Greetings, Mrs. Irene Fink, President of the Beckley Sisterhood, and Mrs. Julian Budnick, President of the Welch Sisterhood
 Business Meeting, with committee reports

Sunday Evening, October 11, 1953

- 7:00 P. M. Dinner at the Beckley Hotel
 Invocation, Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling, Beckley
 Musical Program by Miss Beverly Samans
- 8:30 P. M. Temple Services at Temple Beth El
 Address of Welcome by Isadore R. Wein, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Temple Beth El
 Greetings by Malcolm Pickus, President of the Beckley B'nai B'rith Lodge, and by Milton Gottlieb, President of the Welch (McDowell County) B'nai B'rith Lodge
 Services read by Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling, of Beckley
 Sermon by Rabbi Jacob J. Petuchowski, of Welch
 Benediction by Rabbi Herbert J. Wilner, of Bluefield
 Reception in the Recreation Room, Temple Beth El

Morning Session, Monday, October 12, 1953

- 9:00 A. M. Concluding business session, Temple Beth El
 Election of Officers for the years 1953-1955

Afternoon Session, El Chico Restaurant

12:30 P. M. Luncheon and Installation of Officers, by Mrs. Abram Vossen Goodman, of New York (member of the Executive Board, N. F. T. S.)

Workshop, conducted by Mrs. Goodman

Resource Leaders, Mrs. Sidney L. Rosenthal, of Bluefield, and Mrs. M. Hess, of Charleston

Monday Evening, October 12, 1953

7:00 P. M. Banquet, Moose Club

Invocation, Rabbi Samuel Volkman, Charleston

Salute to the American Flag, led by Mrs. Mildred Cable Gellar

Musical Program, by Mrs. Mildred Cable Gellar

Toastmistress, Mrs. William Caplan, Clarksburg

Address, by Rabbi Morris M. Rose, of Morgantown

Benediction, by Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling

Beckley Sisterhood Officers in 1953

President, Mrs. Sidney Fink

Vice President, Mrs. Joseph R. Miller

Recording Secretary, Mrs. Bernard L. Saks

Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Archie Ellenbogen

Treasurer, Mrs. Sam Hochman

Financial Secretary, Mrs. Saul Fortunoff

Welch Sisterhood Officers, in 1953

(Temple Emanuel, of Welch)

President, Mrs. Julian Budnick

First Vice President, Mrs. E. Roston

Second Vice President, Mrs. B. Herzbrun

Recording Secretary, Mrs. Morton Rosensweig

Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Isadore Katzen

Treasurer, Mrs. M. Gottlieb

State Presidents in 1953 (Local Sisterhood Presidents)

Beckley: Mrs. Sidney Fink

Bluefield: Mrs. Harry Kammer

Charleston: Mrs. Morton Hess

Clarksburg: Mrs. M. Lerner

Fairmont: Mrs. B. Bressler

Huntington: Mrs. L. Lerner

Logan: Mrs. J. T. Fish (vice president)

Morgantown: Mrs. D. Friedman

Parkersburg: Mrs. H. Gottlieb

Welch: Mrs. Julian Budnick

Wheeling: Mrs. S. Crone

Williamson: Mrs. W. M. Goodman

State Sisterhood Officers in 1953

President: Mrs. Edward S. Fields, Morgantown
 First Vice President: Mrs. Irving Albert, Williamson
 Second Vice President: Mrs. Henry Hersh, Parkersburg
 Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Meyer Handmaker, Morgantown
 Recording Secretary: Mrs. David Badner, Charleston
 Treasurer: Mrs. Seymour Michael, Wheeling
 Auditor: Mrs. Robert Levinson, Wheeling
 Parliamentarian: Mrs. Charles Cohen, Charleston

State Chairmen in 1953

Religious School: Mrs. Abraham I. Shinedling, Beckley
 Interfaith: Mrs. B. L. Miller, Logan
 Uniongrams: Mrs. Harry Goldin, Fairmont
 Program and Speakers Bureau: Mrs. Nathan Effron, Bluefield
 Jewish Literature for the Blind: Mrs. Simon Shein, Williamson
 Peace and World Relations: Mrs. Leo Ziffer, Huntington
 Temple Youth: Mrs. Harold Schradski, Huntington
 State Bulletin: Mrs. Irving Albert, Williamson
 Cradle Roll: Mrs. Joseph Levine, Fairmont
 Honor Roll: Mrs. Robert Weiner, Clarksburg
 Stationery: Mrs. E. M. Newman, Welch

Convention Committee**Beckley
Chairmen**

Mrs. Bernard E. Silverman
 Mrs. Herman Samans

Welch

Mrs. Isadore Katzen
 Mrs. E. Newman

Corresponding Secretary

Mrs. M. Edward Harvit
 Mrs. Isadore Katzen

Treasurer

Mrs. William Binderman

The 1953 State Sisterhood Convention Program Booklet consisted of 64 pages, and the two outside and the two inside covers are printed in blue on white. The 1953 convention was the 28th Annual State Convention. Advertisements covered some 60 pages of this program booklet, including compliments and greetings by members of the Beckley Community.

Advertisements in the program booklet by members of the Jewish community or by Jewish-owned businesses were as follows:

President Hotel
 Leader Furniture Company (Prince St.)
 Seidman's Style Shop (Prince St.)
 People's Finance Co. (Prince Street)
 Best Furniture Store (South Fayette St.)
 The Vogue

Quality Shop (Main St.)
 William Klein (Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.)
 People's Clothing Company (Oak Hill)
 Lewis Furniture Company (Neville St.)
 Harry's Men's Shop, Inc. (Neville St.)
 Albert's Army Store (Mount Hope)
 Reliable Home Furnishings Company
 Eric's Jewelry (McCreery St.)
 Marie's (Neville St.)
 Silver Brand Clothes (Neville St.)
 Cohen Drug Company (Neville St.)
 Saks Jewelers (Neville St.)
 People's Credit Store
 Budget Shop
 Modern Furniture and Clothing Stores

Roster of Members of the Beckley Sisterhood in 1954-1955
 (as of September 1, 1954)

In September, 1954, the roster of the Beckley Sisterhood showed the following 47 members:

(Those who left the community since that time, up to the end of June, 1955, are indicated by an asterisk *)

*Mrs. Dora Abel (Mrs. Harry Abel) (Mount Hope) (moved to Baltimore, Md., in April, 1955)
 Mrs. Esther B. Abrams (Mrs. Samuel I. Abrams)
 Mrs. Ruth L. Abrams (Mrs. A. David Abrams)
 Mrs. Rose R. Baer (Mrs. J. Leonard Baer)
 Mrs. Dorothy B. Berman (Mrs. Nathan Berman)
 Mrs. Beatrice C. Binderman (Mrs. William Binderman)
 Mrs. Manya S. Binderman (Mrs. Jack Binderman, Sr.)
 Mrs. Meta A. Bornheim (Mrs. Hugo Bornheim) (Oak Hill)
 Mrs. Dorothy Ellenbogen (Mrs. Archie Ellenbogen)
 Mrs. Irene B. Fink (Mrs. Sidney Fink)
 Mrs. Minnie Fink (Mrs. Louis J. Fink)
 Mrs. Dorothy B. Fortunoff (Mrs. Saul Fortunoff)
 Mrs. Nora B. Franks
 Mrs. Dora C. Front (Mrs. Marc Leon Front)
 Mrs. Edna B. Goldstein (Mrs. Irving Goldstein)
 Mrs. Shirley M. Goldstein (Mrs. Arthur Goldstein)
 Mrs. Anne K. Harvit (Mrs. M. Edward Harvit)
 Mrs. Tillie M. Hochman (Mrs. Morris Hochman)
 Mrs. Zena Y. Hochman (Mrs. Samuel Hochman)
 Mrs. Ida M. Klein (Mrs. William Klein)
 *Mrs. Janet B. Levine (Mrs. Robert H. Levine) (moved to Charleston, W. Va., in November, 1954)
 Mrs. Violet G. Levine (Mrs. Charles H. Levine)
 Mrs. Harriet L. Lewis (Mrs. Ben Lewis) (Mount Hope)
 Mrs. Ida Lewis (Mrs. Benjamin E. Lewis)

Mrs. Rose C. Matz (Mrs. Nathan Matz)
 Mrs. Sylvia S. Miller (Mrs. Joseph R. Miller)
 Mrs. Naomi A. Pickus (Mrs. James Pickus)
 Mrs. Rose Y. Pickus (Mrs. Nathan Pickus)
 Mrs. Martha B. Rosenbaum (Mrs. Theodore Rosenbaum)
 Mrs. Millie G. Rosenbaum (Mrs. Eric Rosenbaum)
 Mrs. Zeena B. Rudin (Mrs. Harold Rudin)
 Mrs. Gussie B. Saks (Mrs. Abe Saks)
 *Mrs. Ruth W. Saks (Mrs. Bernard L. Saks) (moved to Waynesboro, Va.,
 at the end of June, 1955)
 Mrs. Minnie G. Samans (Mrs. Herman Samans)
 Mrs. Ruth B. Saymen (Mrs. Edward Saymen)
 Mrs. Hannah H. Selden (Mrs. Maurice Selden)
 Mrs. Helen L. Shinedling (Mrs. Abraham I. Shinedling)
 Dr. H. Viola Shlickerman
 Mrs. Anna P. Silverberg (Mrs. Jacob Silverberg)
 Mrs. Faye R. Silverman (Mrs. Bernard E. Silverman)
 Mrs. Maxine B. Sopher (Mrs. Harold A. Sopher)
 Mrs. Gussie M. Stromberg (Mrs. Charles Stromberg)
 *Mrs. Shirley F. Stromberg (Mrs. Harry Stromberg) (moved to Albany,
 N. Y., in March, 1955)
 Mrs. Jeanette A. Wein (Mrs. Isadore R. Wein)
 Mrs. Freda L. Wender (Mrs. Max H. Wender)
 Mrs. Dolores Wender (Mrs. Morris S. Wender, Jr.) (Oak Hill)
 Mrs. Sarah P. Wolman (Mrs. Louis Wolman)

In addition, there were in Beckley, in 1954-1955, about eight Jewish women who, for various reasons, were not affiliated with the Beckley Sisterhood; these ladies consisted either of Jewish women who had not affiliated with the Beckley Sisterhood; or who had given up their membership in the Sisterhood.

Former members of the Beckley Sisterhood who were residing in Beckley or the area in 1955 were:

Mrs. Mildred C. Gellar (Mrs. Abraham Gellar)
 Mrs. Mary P. Kandell (Mrs. Edward M. Kandell)
 Mrs. Minnie Arnstein (Mrs. David Arnstein)
 Mrs. Betty Cohen (Mrs. Alfred E. Cohen)
 Mrs. Minnie Lovitz (Mrs. Alfred Lovitz, Sr.) (Mount Hope)

Former Sisterhood members who moved away from Beckley to settle in other cities in the five-year period from 1950 to 1955 included:

Mrs. Helen S. Goldstein (Mrs. Abraham Goldstein) (moved to Brooklyn,
 N. Y., in 1951)
 Mrs. Sadie P. Heller (Mrs. Joseph B. Heller) (moved to Forest Hills,
 N. Y., in 1954)
 Mrs. Sarah Rich (Reichenthal) (Mrs. Isadore Rich) (moved to Norfolk,
 Va., in April, 1955)
 Mrs. Janet B. Levine (Mrs. Robert H. Levine) (moved to Charleston,
 W. Va., in November, 1954)

- Mrs. Naoma C. Pickus (Mrs. Malcolm Pickus) (moved to Waynesboro, Va., in 1954)
 Mrs. Ruth W. Saks (Mrs. Bernard L. Saks) (moved to Waynesboro, Va., in late June, 1955)
 Mrs. Roslyn W. Schildkraut (Mrs. Calvin J. Schildkraut) (moved to Milwaukee, Wis., in March, 1954)
 Mrs. Estelle Stromberg (Mrs. Sidney Stromberg) (moved to New York City, in 1953)
 Mrs. Marion M. Schwartz (Mrs. Albert Schwartz) (moved to Pittsburgh, Pa., in September, 1954)

The West Virginia State Sisterhood Federation

The Beckley Sisterhood is affiliated with the West Virginia State Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, which is composed of 12 local Sisterhoods throughout the state; as well as with the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, whose headquarters are now (since 1951) located in New York City, in the "House of Living Judaism," at 838 Fifth Ave. (formerly the headquarters were in Cincinnati).

The 12 Temple Sisterhoods of West Virginia which comprise the State Federation are as follows:

Beckley
 Bluefield
 Charleston
 Clarksburg (the Clarksburg Sisterhood dropped out in late 1955)
 Fairmont
 Huntington
 Logan
 Morgantown
 Parkersburg
 Welch
 Wheeling
 Williamson

In June, 1955, Mrs. May Albert (Mrs. Irving Albert), of Williamson, was the president of the West Virginia State Federation of Temple Sisterhoods. Previous State Sisterhood presidents (from its organization in 1923 up to 1955) were:

Mrs. Leo Wolf, Wheeling (1923-1924)
 Mrs. L. A. Pollack, Huntington (1924-1926)
 Mrs. Max Frankenberger, Charleston (1926-1928)
 Mrs. Charles Cohen, Charleston (1928-1931)
 Mrs. Isadore Katzen, Welch (1931-1933)
 Mrs. Eph Broh, Huntington (1933-1935)
 Mrs. A. N. Schlossberg, Bluefield (1935-1937)
 Mrs. Paul Broida, Parkersburg (1938-1940)
 Mrs. William Caplan, Clarksburg (1940-1942)
 Mrs. Ben Shore, Montgomery (1942-1944)
 Mrs. Godfrey R. Millstone, Morgantown (1944-1945)

Mrs. Nathan Effron, Bluefield (1945-1947)
 Mrs. Anne Seletz, Charleston (1947-1949)
 Mrs. Ralph Masinter, Huntington (1949-1951)
 Mrs. Edward S. Fields, Morgantown (1951-1953)
 Mrs. Irving Albert, Williamson (1953-1955)

In October, 1955, at the Morgantown State Sisterhood Convention (the 29th), Mrs. Sidney A. Ardman, of Parkersburg, was elected State Sisterhood president for the 2-year term from October, 1955, to October, 1957.

The term of office of the State President and of all State officers is for two years, from October to October. Up to the year 1951, the State Sisterhood conventions used to be held every year, in the first half of October, in rotation among the various cities comprising the State Sisterhood. Since 1951, by a change in the State Sisterhood Constitution, the State conventions are held only every other year, in alternate years to those in which conventions of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods are held (the latter always in connection with, and jointly with, biennial conventions of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, with which the N.F.T.S. is affiliated). In such alternate years, when State conventions are not held, regional or district conventions of the State Sisterhoods are held, for which purpose the 12 local Temple Sisterhoods in West Virginia are divided into two regions, or districts, as follows, each of which has its own district or regional convention in the month of May in alternate or rotating cities:

Northern Region or District:

Clarksburg
 Fairmont
 Huntington

Morgantown
 Parkersburg
 Wheeling

Southern District or Region:

Beckley
 Bluefield
 Charleston

Logan
 Welch
 Williamson

(In October, 1955, the Clarksburg Sisterhood withdrew from the West Virginia State Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, as well as from the N. F. T. S., and affiliated itself with a Conservative Sisterhood federation.)

By the "unwritten law" of the State Sisterhood, the State President (or the 1st Vice President) always attends the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods Convention in October every two years, and both regional or district conventions held in alternate years, in the month of May, and presides at both district or regional meetings.

For the years 1953-1955 the following were the **State Federation officers:** (New officers were scheduled to be elected for the years

1955-1957 at the State Convention to be held in Morgantown in early October, 1955.)

PRESIDENT: Mrs. Irving Albert, Williamson
 1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Mrs. Sidney Ardman, Parkersburg
 2ND VICE PRESIDENT: Mrs. Julian Budnick, Keystone
 CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Mrs. Frank Bodenger, Williamson
 RECORDING SECRETARY: Mrs. I. N. Schoenfeld, Huntington
 TREASURER: Mrs. Harry Tannenbaum, Clarksburg
 AUDITOR: Mrs. Harry Golden, Fairmont
 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Mrs. Charles Cohen, Charleston

State Chairmen

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL: Mrs. Abraham I. Shinedling, Beckley
 PROGRAM AND SPEAKERS' BUREAU: Mrs. Harry Klayman, Williamson
 UNIONGRAMS: Mrs. Lake Brown, Charleston
 JEWISH LITERATURE FOR THE BLIND: Mrs. Simon Shein, Williamson
 TEMPLE YOUTH: Mrs. H. Schradski, Huntington
 CO-CHAIRMAN OF TEMPLE YOUTH: Mrs. Edward S. Fields, Morgantown
 NEWSLETTER: Mrs. Morton Cremer, Parkersburg
 CRADLE ROLL: Mrs. Sam Weiner, Logan
 STATIONERY: Mrs. Ruth Dalton, Clarksburg
 EMERGENCY SERVICES: Mrs. Ellis Roston, Welch
 PEACE AND WORLD RELATIONS AND INTERFAITH: Mrs. Clarence Lovitch, Williamson
 JEWISH CEREMONIALS AND ARTS: Mrs. E. Goldsmith, Morgantown
 HONOR ROLL: Mrs. Sidney Rosenthal, Bluefield

(The above list of State Committee Chairmen will give a good idea of the work and projects carried on and out annually by the State Federation of Sisterhoods through its local officers and chairmen of committees.)

At the 29th Convention (biennial) of the West Virginia State Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, held at Morgantown, W. Va., on October 16-18, 1955, the following new State officers were elected, for the term extending from October, 1955, to October, 1957:

PRESIDENT: Mrs. Sidney A. Ardman, of Parkersburg
 1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Mrs. Charles Rotgin, of Charleston
 2ND VICE PRESIDENT: Mrs. Charles Stein, of Wheeling
 CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Mrs. Ben Kart, of Parkersburg
 RECORDING SECRETARY: Mrs. Sam Weiner, of Logan
 TREASURER: Mrs. Sidney (Irene B.) Fink, of Beckley
 AUDITOR: Mrs. Philip Platnick, of Bluefield
 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Mrs. Charles Cohen, of Charleston (appointed, not elected)

In October, 1955, Mrs. Helen L. Shinedling, of Beckley, was appointed State Interfaith Chairman for 1955-1957 at the Morgantown State Sisterhood Federation Convention, by the new president, Mrs. Sidney A. Ardman.

In October, 1955, the following were serving as presidents of the 11 local Sisterhoods comprising the West Virginia State Federation of Temple Sisterhoods:

BECKLEY: Mrs. William Binderman
 BLUEFIELD: Mrs. Fred Gilbert
 CHARLESTON: Mrs. Louis Cohen
 FAIRMONT: Mrs. Joseph Levine
 HUNTINGTON: Mrs. Harold Frankel
 LOGAN: Mrs. Jack Moss
 MORGANTOWN: Mrs. Howard R. Weiss
 PARKERSBURG: Mrs. Allan Staub
 WELCH: Mrs. Isadore Katzen
 WHEELING: Mrs. Kermit A. Rosenberg
 WILLIAMSON: Mrs. Alex H. Preiser

In 1954, the Beckley Sisterhood had the following committees and the following local chairmen, in line with the State Sisterhood program and with the work and projects of the larger organization:

UNIONGRAMS: Mrs. Eric Rosenbaum
 RELIGION: Mrs. Abraham I. Shinedling
 STATIONERY: Mrs. Charles Levine
 BRAILLE: Mrs. William Binderman
 PROGRAM: Mrs. Sidney Fink
 CRADLE ROLL: Mrs. Robert H. Levine
 EMERGENCY SERVICE: Mrs. Archie Ellenbogen
 NEWSLETTER: Mrs. Albert Schwartz
 WORLD UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM: Mrs. Joseph R. Miller

Rabbis in West Virginia, in 1955:

In 1955, there were the following eight Rabbis in the State of West Virginia, serving local congregations and working under the auspices of the State Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, and co-operating with the latter (also subject to call for assignments by the State Speakers' Bureau):

BECKLEY: Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling
 BLUEFIELD: Rabbi Herbert J. Wilner
 CHARLESTON: Rabbi Samuel Volkman
 CLARKSBURG: Rabbi Solomon Poupko (In September, 1955, he was succeeded by Rabbi Milton Kantor. The Clarksburg Tree of Life Congregation is Conservative, like Rabbi Kantor.)
 FAIRMONT: Rabbi Joseph Zuckerbram
 HUNTINGTON: Rabbi Theodore S. Levy
 MORGANTOWN: Rabbi Morris M. Rose
 WHEELING: Rabbi Joseph H. Freedman

In addition to the above-mentioned West Virginia Reform Rabbis in 1955, the following student rabbis from the Hebrew Union College,

in Cincinnati, were serving local West Virginia Reform congregations in October, 1955:

LOGAN: Nathan Zimskind
PARKERSBURG: Sherman Wine
WELCH: Leonard Kravitz
WILLIAMSON: Robert Blinder

The smaller communities of Logan, Parkersburg, Welch, and Williamson have never had full-time, permanent rabbis, but were served in 1955 and previously by student rabbis from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, in Cincinnati, who are in either their senior or their junior year at the rabbinical seminary there.

(In 1955, there were also Orthodox or Conservative Rabbis in the following cities in West Virginia who were not affiliated with the State Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, but with different organizations: Charleston, Weirton, Huntington, and Wheeling.)

(also in Clarksburg, beginning in September, 1955)

B. The Religious School of Temple Beth El

There was a Religious School in Beckley (in all probability, from 1921 or 1922 on) for many years before the Congregation was formed in 1935-1936, and before the Temple building was erected in the course of those two years. It was conducted by the Beckley Sisterhood from the year 1925 on, and under the aegis of individual ladies of the Jewish community before the Sisterhood was organized in 1925. This Religious School and its teachers met for Sunday School lessons and classes in the Institute School, on Park Ave., near Third Avenue; in the American Legion Hall, on South Kanawha St. (where the Memorial Building is now located); and in private homes of Jewish families, before the year 1936, which witnessed the completion of the Temple building, and its being put into use.

Early teachers at the Religious School included:

Leonard Applebaum

Janet Berman (now Mrs. Robert H. Levine, of Charleston, W. Va.)

Nathan Berman

M. B. Cohen

Dolores Pickus (now Mrs. Monroe Bayer, of Baltimore, Md.)

Mrs. Naomi A. Pickus (Mrs. James Pickus)

Mrs. Rose Y. Pickus (Mrs. Nathan Pickus)

Mrs. Selma Rubenstein (Mrs. Milton Rubenstein)

Dora Steiner (who later moved to Bluefield, W. Va.)

When the Temple Beth El Religious School first was opened for the instruction of Jewish children of the community in Bible, history, and Judaism, there were about 12 children in the Religious School. (As indicated above, the probable date of its opening was 1921 or 1922, but the date is no longer remembered with certainty.) In 1953, at the peak of its registration, before a number of Jewish families moved away

from Beckley, the number of children was 40. At the beginning of the Religious School year of 1954-1955, there were 35 children enrolled in the Religious School; at the end of this school year, i.e., in June, 1955, there were 32. Three Jewish children of religious school age in Beckley were withdrawn from the Religious School by their parents in 1954-1955; two children were allowed by their parents to quit the Religious School in the two years before 1954. The total number of children expected to be in the Religious School in September, 1955, including the three children of Dr. Harry Roodin, mentioned above, is 35.

The subjects taught in the Temple Beth El Religious School in all the years preceding 1954-1955, and continued in those years, included: Bible; Jewish history; Jewish current events; Jewish religion; customs, ceremonies, and holidays; Jewish music; and Jewish folk music and folk dancing. *The World Over Magazine*, published every two weeks by the Jewish Education Society, of New York City, is used by some of the teachers regularly for the Assembly, for the individual classes, and for current event purposes.

In October, 1955, the three highest classes of the Religious School started to use also the new Jewish news bulletin for young people, *Keeping Posted*, which began to be published fortnightly at the time by the Commission on Jewish Education of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis, at New York City.

Those persons in the Beckley community who taught for greater or lesser periods of time in the Religious School of Temple Beth El, in the years from 1936 through 1954, included the following (and including, of course, also the several rabbis and student rabbis of the congregation, who are listed in chronological order on another page of this volume):

Bernice L. Arnstein (1946-1948)

Mrs. Beatrice C. Binderman (Mrs. William Binderman)

Leonard Fivers (later moved to Bluefield, W. Va.)

Mrs. Anne K. Harvit (Mrs. M. Edward Harvit)

Manuel Pickus

Mrs. Naomi A. Pickus (Mrs. James Pickus)

Mrs. Ruth W. Saks (Mrs. Bernard L. Saks) (moved to Waynesboro, Va., late in June, 1955)

Edward Saymen

Mrs. Ruth B. Saymen (Mrs. Edward Saymen)

Calvin J. Schildkraut (later moved to Milwaukee, Wis.)

Maurice Selden

Mrs. Hannah H. Selden (Mrs. Maurice Selden)

Sonia Silverberg (later went off to college)

Mrs. Faye R. Silverman (Mrs. Bernard E. Silverman)

Joan Silverman (later went off to college) (1948-1950)

Howard A. Silverman (1946-1948)

Isadore R. Wein

Mrs. Sarah P. Wolman (Mrs. Louis Wolman)

In September, 1954, at the beginning of the 1954-1955 term of the Temple Beth El Religious School, there were five classes, with the following teachers:

CLASS I (the Kindergarten): Mrs. Rose R. Baer (and Mrs. Esther B. Abrams)

CLASS II: Mrs. Maxine B. Sopher

CLASS III: Mrs. Helen L. Shinedling

CLASS IV: Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling

CLASS V: Bernard Lande

There was also a confirmation class, consisting of three boys: Philip M. Binderman, Robert B. Harvit, and Sidney T. Shinedling, which met three times a month, on Wednesday evenings, throughout the Religious School Year, for two hours each session, and which was taught by Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling. These three boys were confirmed by Rabbi Shinedling on Shabuoth, Friday night, May 27, 1955. Two of them, Philip M. Binderman and Sidney T. Shinedling, were appointed teachers in the Religious School for the year 1955-1956, and the Faculty then consisted of:

Rose R. Baer (assisted by Mrs. Esther B. Abrams)

Philip M. Binderman

Sidney T. Shinedling

Helen L. Shinedling

Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling

Sylvia Favish, a teacher in one of the Raleigh County junior high schools, taught as a substitute teacher in the Religious School for several years before she removed to Tampa, Florida, in September, 1954. Mrs. Naomi A. Pickus and Maurice Selden served on occasions as substitute teachers in 1954-1955. Edward Saymen has been a substitute teacher since 1952.

There were 35 pupils in the Religious School at that time (1954-1955), as divided into their 5 separate classes, as follows:

CLASS I (the Kindergarten; age: 4 to 6) (Teacher, Mrs. Rose R. Baer; Assistant Teacher, Mrs. Esther B. Abrams)

Richard Abrams

Leonard B. Fink

Richard Hochman

Natalie Jo Levine

Gordon Lewis (Mount Hope)

Jeffrey D. Miller

Russell Sopher

Averie Faye Stromberg

Gary A. Wein

Matthew Wender (Oak Hill)

Marsha Wolman

CLASS II (age: 7 to 9 years) (Teacher, Mrs. Maxine B. Sopher)

Paul Henry Arnstein
Kenneth M. Fink
Alan Hochman
Jerome H. Saks
Jeri Lynn Saymen
Robert M. Wein

CLASS III (age: 9 to 11) (Teacher, Mrs. Helen L. Shinedling)

David Abrams
Ruth Ann Arnstein
Franklin Rosenbaum
Thomas Rosenbaum
Vicki Rudin
Esther Lee Stromberg
Lynda D. Wender

CLASS IV (age: 11 to 13) (Teacher, Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling)

Valerie Binderman
Rita Harvit
Dennis G. Saymen
Jack Wolman

CLASS V (age: 13 to 16) (Teacher, Bernard Lande)

Robert B. Harvit
Philip M. Binderman
Robert S. Klein
Paul D. Lewis (Mount Hope)
Sidney T. Shinedling
Alan J. Wein
Michele E. Wender

Hebrew Classes

From 1950 through 1955, Hebrew classes were conducted in the Religious School of Temple Beth El on Saturday mornings, from 10:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M., and from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 P.M. Two of these classes in Hebrew were conducted by Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling, and the third by Mrs. Helen L. Shinedling; there was a total of 14 students taking Hebrew in these three classes, and also the three members of the Confirmation Class took Hebrew in 1954-1955. The Hebrew books used were the Orthodox Siddur *Seder Hinnuch Tefillah Hechadash*, the *Reshith Daas*, and Dr. Emanuel Gamoran's *Gilenu*, several volumes, also the Hebrew passages of the 2 volumes of the *Union Prayer Book*.

All these three Saturday morning Hebrew classes were being continued in 1955-1956 by Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling and by Mrs. Helen L. Shinedling. In addition, Rabbi Shinedling, beginning in mid-October, 1955, was (one afternoon a week) teaching a Bar Mitzvah class of two students: Paul Roodin and Jack Wolman.

(Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling also conducted a beginning Hebrew class for adults on alternate Monday evenings from 1952 to 1955. Beginning with 8 adult students in 1952, the number of students had dropped to 3 in June, 1955, but the class was still continuing.)

Other Faculty Members in 1954-1955

Other faculty members of the Religious School, in 1954-1955, included the following:

- Mrs. Esther B. Abrams (substitute teacher, and assistant in the Religious School as Sisterhood representative)
- Mrs. Betty F. Lande (substitute teacher, and teacher of Israeli and Jewish dancing)
- Mrs. Naomi A. Pickus (substitute teacher)
- Edward Saymen (substitute teacher)
- Maurice Selden (substitute teacher)

Alphabetical Register of the 35 Pupils of the Religious School of Temple Beth El, in September, 1954

(Together with the names of their parents, and their ages as of September 1, 1954)

- (The Pupils, in 1954-1955, ranged in age from 4 to 16)
- David Abrams (9) (son of A. David and Ruth B. Abrams)
 - Richard Abrams (6) (son of A. David and Ruth B. Abrams)
 - Paul Henry Arnstein (8) (son of David and Minerva Arnstein)
 - Ruth Ann Arnstein (10) (daughter of David and Minerva Arnstein)
 - Philip M. Binderman (15) (son of William and Beatrice C. Binderman)
 - Valerie Binderman (13) (daughter of William and Beatrice C. Binderman)
 - Kenneth M. Fink (8) (son of Sidney and Irene B. Fink)
 - Leonard B. Fink (4) (son of Sidney and Irene B. Fink)
 - Rita Harvit (13) (daughter of M. Edward and Anne K. Harvit)
 - Robert B. Harvit (16) (son of M. Edward and Anne K. Harvit)
 - Alan Hochman (7) (son of Sam and Zena Y. Hochman)
 - Richard Hochman (5) (son of Sam and Zena Y. Hochman)
 - Robert S. Klein (14) (son of William and Ida M. Klein)
 - Natalie Jo Levine (5) (daughter of Robert H. and Janet B. Levine)
 - Gordon Lewis (6) (son of Ben and Harriet L. Lewis) (Mount Hope)
 - Paul D. Lewis (14) (son of Ben and Harriet L. Lewis) (Mount Hope)
 - Jeffrey D. Miller (4) (son of Joseph R. and Sylvia S. Miller)
 - Franklin Rosenbaum (9) (son of Eric and Millie G. Rosenbaum)
 - Thomas Rosenbaum (9) (son of Eric and Millie G. Rosenbaum) (the last-named two boys are twins)
 - Vicki Rudin (10) (daughter of Harold and Zeena B. Rudin)
 - Jerome H. Saks (8) (son of Bernard L. and Ruth W. Saks)
 - Dennis G. Saymen (12) (son of Edward and Ruth B. Saymen)
 - Jeri Lynn Saymen (8) (daughter of Edward and Ruth B. Saymen)
 - Sidney T. Shinedling (15) (son of Rabbi Abraham I. and Helen L. Shinedling)
 - Russell Sopher (6) (son of Harold A. and Maxine B. Sopher)
 - Averie Faye Stromberg (6) (daughter of Harry and Shirley F. Stromberg)

Esther Lee Stromberg (9) (daughter of Harry and Shirley F. Stromberg)
 Alan J. Wein (12) (son of Isadore R. and Jeanette A. Wein)
 Gary A. Wein (6) (son of Isadore R. and Jeanette A. Wein)
 Robert M. Wein (8) (son of Isadore R. and Jeanette A. Wein)
 Lynda D. Wender (9) (daughter of Max H. and Freda L. Wender)
 Matthew Wender (6) (son of Morris S., Jr., and Dolores Wender)
 (Oak Hill)
 Michele E. Wender (14) (daughter of Max H. and Freda L. Wender)
 Jack Wolman (10) (son of Louis and Sarah P. Wolman)
 Marsha Wolman (4) (daughter of Louis and Sarah P. Wolman)

List of the Pre-Religious School Children of the Beckley and Area Jewish Community

Children living in the Beckley and area vicinity, in 1954-1955, who were too young to attend Religious School, were as follows: (Those marked with the asterisk (*) were expected to enter the Religious School on the 2nd Sunday morning in September, 1955.)

*Dennis Abrams (son of A. David and Ruth L. Abrams)
 Samuel I. Abrams (son of A. David and Ruth L. Abrams)
 Gail Ann Goldstein (daughter of Arthur and Shirley M. Goldstein)
 *Joel Hochman (son of Sam and Zena Y. Hochman)
 Alicia Kandell (daughter of Edward M. and Mary P. Kandell)
 *Dennis B. Miller (son of Joseph R. and Sylvia S. Miller)
 *Sheila Jane Selden (daughter of Maurice and Hannah H. Selden)
 Stanley I. Selden (son of Maurice and Hannah H. Selden)
 Nickie Wender (daughter of Morris S., Jr., and Dolores Wender (Oak Hill))

Pupils in the Religious School of Congregation Beth El who moved away from the area previously, or who left the Religious School for various reasons, in the years 1950 to 1955, not mentioned above, include (all these were of school or high school age in 1954-1955):

Barbara Cohen
 Millicent Cohen
 James Ellenbogen
 Beth Jane Goldstein
 Merryl Hirsch
 Rachetta Kishony
 Beverly Samans
 Daniel H. Schwartz
 Sandra Schwartz

(With the addition of the three children of Dr. Harry Roodin (Paul, Marjorie, and Judith), who came to the Beckley community from Milton, Mass., for a two-year residence as physician at the Beckley United States Army Induction Center, the number of Jewish children in the Temple Beth El Religious School amounted to 34 in the Religious School year extending from September, 1955, to June, 1956.)

In the course of the school year 1954-1955, up to September 1, 1955, the following pupils of the Religious School of Congregation Beth El left the school, for the reasons stated in parentheses:

- Philip M. Binderman (he became a teacher at the Religious School in September, 1955)
- Robert B. Harvit (he left to attend the University of West Virginia, at Morgantown, W. Va., in September, 1955)
- Natalie Jo Levine (her parents moved to Charleston, W. Va., in November, 1954)
- Jerome H. Saks (his parents moved to Waynesboro, Va., in late June, 1955)
- Sidney T. Shinedling (he became a teacher at the Religious School in September, 1955)
- Averie Faye Stromberg (her parents moved to Albany, N. Y., in early 1955)
- Esther Lee Stromberg (her parents moved to Albany, N. Y., in early 1955)
- Alan J. Wein (he left Beckley to attend Mercerburg Academy, at Mercersburg, Pa., in September, 1955)

New pupils who entered the Religious School of Congregation Beth El in September, 1955, included:

- Dennis Abrams (son of A. David and Ruth L. Abrams)
- Joel Hochman (son of Samuel and Zena Y. Hochman)
- Dennis Miller (son of Joseph R. and Sylvia S. Miller)
- Judy Roodin (daughter of Dr. Harry Roodin and Blossom Roodin)
- Marjorie Roodin (daughter of Dr. Harry Roodin and Blossom Roodin)
- Paul A. Roodin (son of Dr. Harry Roodin and Blossom Roodin)
- Sheila Jane Selden (daughter of Maurice and Hannah H. Selden)

**Alphabetical List of the 34 Pupils of the Religious School in September, 1955
(for the Religious Year 1955-1956):**

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| A. David Abrams | Judy Roodin |
| Dennis Abrams | Marjorie Roodin |
| Richard Abrams | Paul Roodin |
| Paul Henry Arnstein | Franklin Rosenbaum |
| Ruth Ann Arnstein | Thomas Rosenbaum |
| Valerie Binderman | Vicki Rudin |
| Kenneth M. Fink | Dennis G. Saymen |
| Leonard B. Fink | Jeri Lynn Saymen |
| Alan Hochman | Sheila Jane Selden |
| Joel Hochman | Russell Sopher |
| Richard Hochman | Gary A. Wein |
| Rita Harvit | Robert M. Wein |
| Robert S. Klein | Lynda D. Wender |
| Gordon G. Lewis (Mount Hope, W. Va.) | Matthew Wender |
| Paul D. Lewis (Mount Hope, W. Va.) | Michele E. Wender |
| Dennis B. Miller | Marsha Wolman |
| Jeffrey D. Miller | Jack Wolman |

**Roster of the Pupils of the Religious School by Classes in September, 1955
(for the Religious Year 1955-1956):**

CLASS I (Kindergarten) (Mrs. Rose R. Baer, Teacher; Mrs. Esther B. Abrams, Assistant Teacher):

Dennis Abrams
Leonard B. Fink
Joel Hochman
Dennis B. Miller
Jeffrey D. Miller
Sheila Jane Selden

CLASS II (Philip M. Binderman, Teacher):

Richard Abrams
Richard Hochman
Gordon G. Lewis
Judy Roodin
Russell Sopher
Gary A. Wein
Matthew Wender
Marsha Wolman

CLASS III (Sidney T. Shinedling, Teacher):

Paul Henry Arnstein
Kenneth M. Fink
Alan Hochman
Marjorie Roodin
Robert M. Wein

CLASS IV (Mrs. Helen L. Shinedling, Teacher):

David Abrams
Ruth Ann Arnstein
Franklin Rosenbaum
Thomas Rosenbaum
Vicki Rudin
Jeri Lynn Saymen
Lynda D. Wender

CLASS V (Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling, Teacher):

Valerie Binderman
Rita Harvit
Robert S. Klein
Paul D. Lewis
Paul Roodin
Dennis G. Saymen
Michele E. Wender
Jack Wolman

Substitute Teachers of the Religious School for the Year 1955-1956

The following were the volunteer substitute teachers serving in the Religious School, subject to call, for the year 1955-1956:

Mrs. Esther B. Abrams
Mrs. William Binderman
Mrs. Sylvia S. Miller
Mrs. James Pickus
Edward Saymen
Mrs. Ruth B. Saymen
Maurice Selden

C. The Junior Congregation of Temple Beth El

In September, 1950, Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling, then newly arrived in Beckley, with the aid and encouragement of the then chairman of the Board of Directors of Temple Beth El, Charles H. Levine, helped to establish the so-called "Junior Congregation of Temple Beth El" (still functioning in June, 1955), recruited on a voluntary basis from among those children of the Religious School who are 8 years old or who attain to the age of 8 in the course of the Religious School year. The Junior Congregation has its own Constitution and by-laws (adopted in late 1950, and amended and revised in 1954), and in 1954-1955 Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling was its faculty adviser, and A. David Abrams was its adult adviser and a full member. In 1954, a total of 16 of the students of the Religious School were members of the Junior Congregation, as follows:

David Abrams	Jerome H. Saks
Paul Henry Arnstein	Dennis G. Saymen
Ruth Ann Arnstein	Jeri Lynn Saymen
Valerie Binderman	Sidney T. Shinedling
Kenneth M. Fink	Esther Lee Stromberg
Rita Harvit	Alan J. Wein
Franklin Rosenbaum	Robert M. Wein
Thomas Rosenbaum	Lynda D. Wender

In addition, about eight students of the Religious School who had been members of the Junior Congregation previously (1950-1954) quit the organization in 1954-1955, for various reasons.

The purposes of the Junior Congregation of Temple Beth El, as provided for in its Constitution, were as follows:

(a) the collection and the distribution of contributions for charity purposes at the Sunday morning Religious School assembly services (the Charity Fund), for local, national, and international charities and causes, both Jewish and general.

(b) the conducting of the religious services in the Sunday morning assembly at the Religious School, and the assisting of the work of the congregation in every way possible, both morally and materially; also, assisting the rabbi in the conducting of the Saturday morning service at the

Temple, and in the reading of the English translations of the Scriptural portions, also of selections from *Pirke Aboth* (The Chapters of the Fathers) on the Saturday mornings between Pesach and Shabuoth.

In October, 1955, the Junior Congregation voted to conduct one Saturday morning service itself each month thereafter, the last service of each month, with its members voluntarily reading the service and the Bible translation passages, as well as presenting a sermonette based on the Torah portion of the week.

(c) the conduct and maintenance (also the creation, in 1950-1951 and thereafter) of a Religious School Library, and the purchase of books for that Library, chiefly from the Jewish Publication Society of America, of which the Junior Congregation has been a member since its inception, in September, 1950), on the basis of voluntary contributions made by the children of the Religious School every Sunday morning in the course of the Assembly (the Book Fund).

(Before the establishing of the Temple Library in September, 1950, neither the Congregation nor the Religious School possessed a library of any sort, but merely a small collection of text books.)

(d) assisting in the celebration of such Jewish holidays as Purim, Chanukah, and Sukkos, and special occasions, through games, plays, programs, and luncheons, held in the Temple or in the Vestry Rooms.

(e) the celebration of the annual picnic, in late May or in early June, and of other Jewish holidays and occasions in the course of the year, as well as various occasional projects.

At the end of 1954 the officers of the Junior Congregation, as elected by the children themselves, were:

Dennis G. Saymen, president
David Abrams, vice president
Rita Harvit, secretary
Valerie Binderman, treasurer
Ruth Ann Arnstein, librarian

Thomas and Franklin Rosenbaum, and Paul Henry Arnstein, wardens
(whose task it was to draw the window curtains, put away all Bibles and hymn books in the bookracks at the backs of the pews, and to check and turn out all electric lights)

The officers are all elected for a term of three months, in the Junior Congregation, with the exception of the treasurer and of the librarian, who are elected for the entire year. The purpose in this, as expressed in the constitution of the organization, is to enable the officers to rotate in office and to enable as many children as possible to hold some office in the course of a year or two, and thus provide the maximum number of pupils with experience in parliamentary law and in the conduct of the meetings and in the knowledge of the problems and duties, as well as the opportunities, of both the Junior Congregation and of the regular

congregation, for membership in which (the latter) the former is intended as a sort of preparation.

Officers who served in the first three months of 1955 (they practically served until the close of the school year of 1954-1955 on Sunday, May 29, 1955) included:

President, Alan J. Wein
Vice President, Rita Harvit
Secretary, David Abrams
Treasurer, Valerie Binderman

The officers elected by the Junior Congregation in September, 1955, to serve until the end of the year 1955, were:

President: Rita Harvit
Vice President: Paul Roodin
Secretary: Valerie Binderman
Treasurer: Dennis G. Saymen (to serve until June 1, 1956)
Librarian: David Abrams; assistant librarian, Franklin Rosenbaum (these two officers to serve the entire year 1955-1956)
Wardens: Paul Arnstein and Robert M. Wein

There is also a Library Committee of the Junior Congregation, appointed by the president for the entire Religious School year, which selects and orders the books (10 or more) purchased by the Junior Congregation for the entire year. The president, Rabbi, treasurer and librarian are always members of this Library Committee.

Since early 1951, the Junior Congregation of Temple Beth El has been a Library Member of the Jewish Publication Society of America, of Philadelphia, purchasing (at an annual subscription cost of \$22.50) at least 10 books from among the books published each year by the Jewish Publication Society of America or from among books previously published by that Society, in order to supplement and augment its Library of some 300 to 400 volumes. These purchases are made from the Book Fund of the Junior Congregation. In addition, various persons have, from time to time, donated either books, or money for their purchase, to the Library of the Religious School of Temple Beth El, including: Mrs. Beatrice C. Binderman, Mrs. Dora Abel, Sidney Fink, Harold Rudin, Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling, Maurice Selden, Mrs. Sarah Rich, Edward Saymen, and Herman Samans.

In October, 1955, the Library of the Religious School contained, in addition to several hundred Hebrew and English text and prayer books and Bible translations, also books on Jewish and general history, biography, literature, Biblical literature, fiction, novels, religion, poetry, philosophy, social problems, copies of the Hebrew Scriptures with and without Rashi's commentaries, various old prayer-books, and a ten-volume set of the new *Universal Jewish Encyclopedia*, purchased by the Junior Congregation in 1951, out of the pennies, nickels, and dimes brought by some of the children weekly as contributions to the Book Fund of the Junior Con-

gregation. Truly, in the case of the Library of the Junior Congregation of Temple Beth El, the truth of the ancient Scotch adage is realized: "Many a mickle makes a muckle"!

In September, 1955, the following 5 pupils of the Religious School of Congregation Beth El became members of the Junior Congregation: Alan Hochman, Marjorie Roodin, Paul Roodin, Vicki Rudin, and Lynda D. Wender.

At the end of September, 1955, the roster of Junior Congregation members was as follows (16 members):

David Abrams	Paul Roodin
Paul Henry Arnstein	Franklin Rosenbaum
Ruth Ann Arnstein	Thomas Rosenbaum
Valerie Binderman	Vicki Rudin
Kenneth M. Fink	Dennis G. Saymen
Alan Hochman	Jeri Lynn Saymen
Rita Harvit	Robert M. Wein
Marjorie Roodin	Lynda D. Wender

At that time, A. David Abrams was the adult adviser to the Junior Congregation for the Religious School year 1955-1956.

As soon as children of the Religious School attain the age of 8 years, they are automatically eligible to join the Junior Congregation, if they so desire. Membership in the Junior Congregation may be maintained until after Confirmation, as long as pupils remain in the Religious School. Each week, the secretary of the Junior Congregation sends illustrated "get-well" cards to all pupils of the Religious School who are reported or known to be ill, and thus absent from the Religious School on the preceding Sunday. Complete records of attendance, receipts, and minutes of the meetings are filed by the secretary and treasurer, and kept permanently in folders in a drawer of the filing cabinet in the Rabbi's study (office). The fixed monthly dues of members of the Junior Congregation is 25c, which sums are used for picnics, Temple donations or projects, Chanukah and Purim parties, and the like. Meetings of the Junior Congregation are held after the close of the Religious School sessions (which begin at 10:00 A.M.) each Sunday morning, for 20 to 25 minutes each week, from 12:05 to about 12:30 P.M.

The Junior Congregation is an autonomous, self-electing, and independent organization of the Religious School and congregation. It is free to accept or to reject, at will, the advice of its adult advisers or of the parents of the Religious School children. The Budget Committee advises the membership of the Junior Congregation as to which charities, appeals, and the like should be answered, and as to the amount to be contributed to each worthy cause, and the Junior Congregation, by vote at the following meeting, either approves or disapproves of the donation, or makes its own collective decision.

D. The Temple Beth El Youth Group

At one time, in the middle 1940's, there was an A. Z. A. group in Beckley, formed and active for about a year. It was disbanded during the World War II period, due to the fact that so many of its members left for war service. This A.Z.A. group was interested in both cultural Jewish projects and athletics, and during the short period of its existence it had a basketball team playing in a city basketball league.

The First Temple Youth Group

After that, the first Temple Beth El Youth Group was founded in 1946-1947 by a group of young people of the congregation, including the following:

Milford Berman
Peter E. Ellenbogen
Jack Front
Harold Harvit (who was extremely
instrumental in its formation
and maintenance)
Shirley R. Klein
Manuel Pickus
Sonia Silverberg
Joan M. Silverman

Its original adult advisers and sponsors included Mrs. Faye R. Silverman, Mrs. Anne K. Harvit, Morri R. Wein, and Mrs. Minnie G. Samans. The group was affiliated with the National Federation of Temple Youth and with the subregions of the latter organization, and Harold Harvit was its president for the duration of its existence, i.e., from 1946-1947 to 1951.

This first Temple Beth El Youth Group existed until 1951, when it was disbanded, in June of that year, and went out of existence, due principally to the departure of all or most of its members for the various universities and colleges of the region, after their graduation from Woodrow Wilson High School, in Beckley. Their average age at the time of the formation of this group was from 14 or 15 to 16.

Until about a year before it was disbanded in the early summer of 1951, the first Temple Youth Group held joint dinner and business meetings with the first Bluefield, W. Va., Temple Youth Group, of Congregation Ahavath Sholom, which formed one joint Temple Youth Group together with it. Its main activities were social. Co-president with Harold Harvit during this period (1946-1947 to 1950) was Yetta Faye Nelson, of Princeton, W. Va., for the Bluefield Temple Youth Group. Some ten Bluefield Jewish boys and girls were affiliated with the combined Temple Youth Group, including Harmon Cohen, Doris Sue Katz, Gloria Blank, Gloria Effron, Barbara Sherrin, Yetta Faye Nelson, Arthur Wilson, Richard Wilson, Alan Susman, and Richard Salzberg.

The Second Temple Youth Group

The second Temple Beth El Youth Group was formed in September, 1951, when Harmon Cohen, then president of the Bluefield, W. Va., Temple Youth Group, and president also of the Tri-State subregion of OVTY (the Ohio Valley Temple Youth), and a vice-president of OVTY, came to Beckley and assisted in its organization at Temple Beth El. This second Temple Beth El Youth Group is a branch of OVTY and is affiliated with the National Federation of Temple Youth, whose headquarters are in New York City. Dues are \$2.50 per annum per member.

The charter members of this second Temple Beth El Youth Group were:

Philip M. Binderman
Robert B. Harvit
Manuel Pickus
Beverly Samans
Sidney T. Shinedling

Their average age at joining in September, 1951, was 13 or 14.

Later members who joined in 1952-1953 included:

James Ellenbogen
Robert S. Klein
Paul D. Lewis
Sandra Schwartz
Michele E. Wender

The average age of members in the Temple Youth Group is 13 to 14, which is the minimum age for joining.

As time passed by, and the two years from 1952 to 1954 elapsed, a new contingent of Temple youths became eligible for membership. This third increment of members included:

Valerie Binderman
Rita Harvit
Dennis G. Saymen
Alan J. Wein

Paul A. Roodin became a member of the T. Y. G. in October, 1955.

Several members dropped out of the organization in the year 1954-1955, including James Ellenbogen and Beverly Samans.

Manuel Pickus was the first adult adviser (also a member) of this second Temple Youth Group, followed by Mrs. Helen L. Shinedling. Thereafter Mrs. Beatrice C. Binderman and Calvin J. Schildkraut served for more than a year as youth group advisers. From 1954 to 1955 Bernard Lande served in this position. Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling acted as unofficial sponsor and advisor of the group, and often assisted and attended its dinner meetings and business sessions, as well as all

Temple Youth Group conclaves held in Huntington, Charleston, and Bluefield. The Temple Youth Group is totally autonomous and independent, makes its own decisions, and is free to conduct its meetings and projects as it decides.

The Temple Youth Group has its own constitution, which contains articles dealing with the aims and purposes of the group, with the requirements for membership, and with the duties of the officers.

In October, 1955, Edward Saymen was elected sole adult adviser of the Temple Youth Group, for 1955-1956, with Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling also elected as the group's unofficial adult adviser (ex-officio).

The first president of the second Temple youth group was Robert B. Harvit, who served from 1951 to 1954. In September, 1954, the following officers were elected to serve for the year 1954-1955:

President, Philip M. Binderman
Vice President, Robert S. Klein
Treasurer, Valerie Binderman
Secretary, Michele E. Wender

Beverly Samans had served as its treasurer from 1953 to 1954, and from 1951 to 1952 she had been the secretary-treasurer of the organization.

The officers elected in April, 1955, and installed in May, 1955, to serve for the year 1955-1956, included:

President, Robert S. Klein
Vice President, Paul D. Lewis (Mount Hope)
Secretary, Rita Harvit
Corresponding Secretary, Philip M. Binderman
Treasurer, Dennis G. Saymen

The second Temple Beth El Youth Group, performing various services on behalf of the Temple and the congregation, received its first "Mitzvah" certificate from the National Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) on April 14, 1953. It was a charter member of the "Mitzvah" group. The second "Mitzvah" certificate was given to the Beckley Youth Group on September 17, 1954.

Members of the youth group participated in various conclaves on a statewide and regional as well as a subregional basis ever since its formation in September, 1951, thus at Charleston, Huntington, Bluefield, and Portsmouth, Ohio. The Beckley youth group held several joint meetings with the second Bluefield Temple Youth Group, both in Beckley and in Bluefield, with which it was loosely affiliated in 1952 to 1954. Members of the second Bluefield Temple Youth Group in 1950 to 1955 included: Karel Kwass, Adeline Platnick, Kenneth B. Platnick, Naomi Kaufman, Alan Lazer, Robert Jason, Arnold Effron, David Katz, Neil Tucker, Edna Faye Tucker, Harriet Salzberg, Barbara Rosenfeld, Harmon Cohen, Stanley Nelson, Sandy Auerbach, Roberta Platnick, and Alan

Braum. In 1953 the Beckley youth group held an interfaith meeting at Temple Beth El, with 13 local churches being represented, of both races and of several religious denominations. Robert B. Harvit was, at that time, elected as president of the Interfaith Youth Group which was formed then.

The Temple Youth Group, annually or semi-annually, conducts a Youth Group Service at Temple Beth El, its members reading the services, giving the sermon or address, kindling the Sabbath lights and reciting the Shabbas Kiddush, and giving the closing benediction, with the rabbi responding to the sermon or address and reading the Kaddish prayer.

Robert B. Harvit was also elected, at the Tri-State Conclave held in Charleston, W. Va., in April, 1954, as president of the Tri-State Sub-Region of OVTY, and in May, 1954, he was elected one of the three vice-presidents of OVTY; in the latter capacity, he visited all the Temple Youth groups in West Virginia in the course of the year 1954-1955. In June, 1952, he was elected one of the four delegates-at-large for OVTY, and at the Temple Youth Group conclave held in Huntington, W. Va., from April 15 to 17, 1955, at Ohev Sholom Temple, Robert B. Harvit presided at all business and other meetings, and delivered the sermon at the Religious Service held on Friday evening, April 15, 1955.

On December 9, 1955, the first eve of the Feast of Dedication (Chanukah), the Temple Beth El Youth Group held a special Youth Group Chanukah service at the Temple, with seven of its members participating in the service. Philip M. Binderman delivered the Chanukah Youth Sermon, which was responded to by Isadore R. Wein, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Temple Beth El, and by Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling. Valerie Binderman recited the blessings over the Sabbath candles; Sidney T. Shinedling recited the Kiddush; Robert S. Klein recited the benedictions over the Chanukah candles and gave the closing benediction; and Valerie Binderman, Paul A. Roodin, Dennis G. Saymen, Michele Wender, Sidney T. Shinedling, Philip M. Binderman, and Robert S. Klein read the services. Appropriate selections from the Book of *Psalms* and special prayers for Chanukah also were read. (Paul D. Lewis and Rita Harvit, the other 2 members of the Youth Group, were prevented by illness from participating.)

Late in March, 1956, the Beth El Temple Youth Group plans to conduct a special Passover religious service at the Temple, during the intermediate days of Passover (*Chol Hamoed Pesach*), and also to conduct an open forum on Passover at that time.

CHAPTER V

ORGANIZATIONS OF THE BECKLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY

A. Beckley Lodge No. 1360 of the B'nai B'rith

The Beckley Lodge No. 1360 of the B'nai B'rith was chartered on April 3, 1939 (5699 A.M.), by District Grand Lodge No. 3, and the original charter was signed by Charles H. Roemer, of Paterson, N. J., who was then president of District Grand Lodge No. 3; and by the late Henry Monsky, then the president of the Supreme Grand Lodge of the B'nai B'rith (I.O.B.B.). The lodge disintegrated in the middle of the year 1940, for reasons which are no longer recalled, and it held no meetings for the remainder of that year. However, it was soon reorganized, in March and April, 1941, and has remained in active existence ever since that time. The reorganization of 1941 was assisted by members of the Charleston (W. Va.) Lodge No. 788, many of whom attended the rebirth of the Beckley Lodge; Lawrence C. Kaufman and Marcus Smith, officers of the Charleston Lodge, were especially prominent in the reorganization of the Beckley Lodge.

The Beckley Lodge of the B'nai B'rith is affiliated with the State Council of the B'nai B'rith of West Virginia, and sends delegates to both the spring and fall conventions of the State Council, held in May and October, annually. The local lodge is affiliated also, and a member of, District Grand Lodge No. 3, of the B'nai B'rith, which has its headquarters in Philadelphia, and which comprises the four states of New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, and through the D. G. L. No. 3 it is affiliated with the Supreme Grand Lodge of the B'nai B'rith, which has its headquarters in Washington, D. C.

Sometimes the West Virginia State Council meetings are held in May and November of each year. At the 1955 Fall State Council Meeting, held at Fairmont, W. Va., on November 6, 1955, A. David Abrams, Joseph R. Miller, Manuel Pickus, and Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling were the official delegates of the Beckley Lodge. At this session A. David Abrams became 1st vice president of the State Council.

The 12 other B'nai B'rith Lodges of West Virginia, besides Beckley Lodge No. 1360, which form the West Virginia State Council of the B'nai B'rith, are: Bluefield, Charleston, Clarksburg, Fairmont, Huntington, Logan, Morgantown, Parkersburg, Welch (McDowell County), Weirton, Wheeling, and Williamson.

The following paragraph, excerpted from the new *Constitution and By-Laws of Beckley Lodge Number 1360, B'nai B'rith*, adopted at Beckley, West Virginia, in 1953, states the purpose and the aims of the Lodge as follows:

"The B'nai B'rith has taken upon itself the mission of uniting Jews in the work of promoting their highest interests and those of

humanity: of developing and elevating the mental and moral character of the people of our faith; of inculcating the purest principles of philanthropy, science, and art; alleviating the wants of the poor and needy; visiting and attending the sick; coming to the rescue of victims of persecution; providing for, protecting, and assisting the widow and the orphan on the broadest principles of humanity."

The Charter Members of 1939

The following twenty-six men were the charter members of the Beckley Lodge, in 1939:

(Note: Those names marked with the symbol * are now (1955) deceased; those marked with the symbol † are no longer residing in Beckley or vicinity.)

*Abe Saks	†Edward Berman
†Ben Myers	J. Silverberg
James Pickus	William Binderman
*Tom Sopher	M. Edward Harvit
†Leonard Applebaum	J. Binderman
†I. J. Greenfield	I. Goldstein
*Harry Abel (Mount Hope)	†I. Fink
*Nat Berman	Benjamin E. Lewis
†Milton Rubenstein	†Dr. A. R. Korensky
†Ben Harris	†H. Wasserkrug
†Harry Jacobson	William Klein
†Rabbi M. M. Applebaum	†J. Keiserman
*C. Greenfield	*Joseph B. Heller

(Note: We have reproduced these names exactly as they are given on the B'nai B'rith charter plaque hanging on one of the walls of the Vestry Rooms of the Temple, the founders' plaque containing the names of these charter members. Rabbi Morton M. Applebaum was then, in 1939-1940, the first student rabbi of the congregation from the Hebrew Union College, in Cincinnati. Dr. A. R. Korensky was for a short period of time the physician for a coal company which had mines then in the vicinity of Beckley; he left the Beckley community a short time after the above-referred to time. The full names of most of these charter members can be found in their biographical sketches in the earlier part of this history.)

Charter Members of 1941

After the Lodge was reorganized in March and April, 1941, with the aid of the Charleston Lodge, No. 788, as has been indicated above, the following 27 men of the community became the new charter members (many were, of course, the same as in 1939) of the Lodge:

(Note: This second plaque, or charter, if it ever existed, has been lost or misplaced, and is no longer extant. The symbol * preceding a name indicates that the member is no longer alive; the symbol † is used to

indicate the removal of members from the local community to other cities.)

*Sam Abrams
 †Leonard Applebaum
 *Harry Abel (Mount Hope)
 *Nathan Berman
 Jack Binderman, Sr.
 †Israel Fink
 Irving Goldstein
 *Charles Greenfield
 *Edward Gilbert
 †Ben Harris
 Edward Harvit
 *Joseph B. Heller
 †Joseph Keiserman
 William Klein

Harry Lewin
 Benjamin E. Lewis
 Nathan Matz
 †Ben Myers
 James Pickus
 †Louis Pickus
 Nathan Pickus
 †Samuel Rudin
 *Abe Saks
 Dr. Bernard E. Silverman
 Jacob Silverberg
 *Thomas Sopher
 †Harry Wasserkrug

By the unwritten but self-understood and tacit law of the Lodge and the congregation, the Beckley Lodge of the B'nai B'rith serves as the Men's Club of the Beth El Congregation, conducting all entertainment programs, all fund-raising projects, and all other special programs, such as dinners, holiday parties, cultural affairs, memorial celebrations, and the like, which are not conducted by the Sisterhood, and often in co-operation with the Sisterhood.

One of the local Lodge's chief functions is its Americanism or Americanization program, for the preparation of the foreign-born in Raleigh County to become naturalized citizens of the United States. This is a Lodge feature which has been emulated by other West Virginia lodges of the B'nai B'rith. Active in past years in this Americanism program as instructors since its inception in 1948 have been Malcolm Pickus, Archie Ellenbogen, Arthur Goldstein, and Robert H. Levine. In the latter part of 1954, when the chairman of the Americanism Committee, and head instructor in the program, Malcolm Pickus, left Beckley to settle in Waynesboro, Va., Archie Ellenbogen was appointed chairman of this committee and program of the Lodge. In February, 1955, under the auspices of the Beckley B'nai B'rith Lodge, Edward Saymen, assisted by Morris S. Wender, Jr., of Oak Hill, began a similar Americanization program in Oak Hill, at the Hill Hotel, for the foreign-born of Fayette County. In 1955 they had a class of eight pupils. In May, 1955, the Sidney G. Kusworm Award was presented to the Beckley Lodge chiefly on the strength of its Americanization program and for its achievements in the field of civics and public affairs.

In addition, the Beckley B'nai B'rith Lodge assists in a vocational guidance program at the two local high schools (Woodrow Wilson High School and Stratton High School) and at the Raleigh County Vocational School, in Beckley; maintains an Emergency Fund; maintains also an annual Travelers' Aid Fund, for the temporary relief of and assistance to needy and stranded Jewish transients and travelers (this fund is

administered by Isadore R. Wein and A. David Abrams, for the Lodge); makes annual contributions to the Leo N. Levi Memorial Hospital, at Hot Springs, Ark., and to the National Jewish Hospital (for the tuberculous) at Denver, Colo., both institutions originally B'nai B'rith projects; and it conducts an annual dinner appeal or drive for funds on behalf of the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith. It contributes annually to the Building Fund and to the Maintenance Fund of the Hillel Foundation at West Virginia University, at Morgantown, W. Va.; and also assists several local charities, cultural and civic programs, and youth groups, as well as the Teen Town Recreational Center and the local VA Hospital.

(In December, 1955, A. David Abrams and Daniel M. Saks, the latter the 2nd vice president of the Lodge, were appointed as the new members of the B'nai B'rith Travelers' Aid Fund Committee, to serve for an indefinite period.)

Past Presidents of Beckley Lodge No. 1360

The past presidents of Beckley Lodge No. 1360 include:

Benjamin E. Lewis (1939-1940)
 Irving Goldstein (1940-1941)
 M. Edward Harvit (1941-1943)
 William Klein (1943-1945)
 A. David Abrams (1945-1947)
 Edward Saymen (1947-1948)
 Robert H. Levine (1948-1949)
 Isadore R. Wein (1949-1950)
 Eric Rosenbaum (1950-1951) (re-elected as president for 1955-1956 in April, 1955)
 Harold Rudin (1951-1953)
 Malcolm Pickus (1953-1954)
 Arthur Goldstein (1954-1955)

Past Secretaries of the Lodge

Those who served as secretaries of the Lodge in the past include:

William Binderman (1939-1940)
 Ben Myers (1940) [1943?]
 M. Edward Harvit (1941)
 Eric Rosenbaum (1941-1944)
 Robert H. Levine (1950-1951)
 William Klein (1951-1953)
 Abraham I. Shinedling (1953-1955)

Past Treasurers of the Lodge

Treasurers of the Lodge in the past include:

Abe Saks (1939-1940)
 Joseph B. Heller (for a number of years after 1940)
 William Klein (1940-1941)
 Samuel Hochman (1950-1953)
 William Binderman (1953-1955)

Officers of the Lodge in September, 1954

The officers and trustees of the B'nai B'rith Lodge who served during the year 1954 (April) to 1955 (April) were as follows:

President, Arthur Goldstein
 First Vice President, Sam Hochman
 Second Vice President, Manuel Pickus
 Secretary, Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling
 Treasurer, William Binderman
 Monitor (Chaplain), Isadore R. Wein
 Guardian, Edward Saymen
 Warden, Louis Wolman
 Trustees: William Klein, A. David Abrams, and Harold Rudin

Officers of the Lodge for 1955-1956

The officers elected in April, and installed in May, 1955, by former State Council President Robert H. Levine, then living in Charleston, were:

President, Eric Rosenbaum
 First Vice President, Manuel Pickus
 Second Vice President, Daniel M. Saks
 Secretary, Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling
 Treasurer, Max H. Wender
 (He resigned in October, 1955, and was replaced by Dr. Bernard E. Silverman.)
 Guardian, Edward Saymen
 Warden, Louis Wolman
 Chaplain (Monitor), Arthur Goldstein
 Trustees: William Klein, Arthur Goldstein, and Harold Rudin

The Standing Committee chairmen of the Lodge, or the co-chairmen of the Standing Committees of the Lodge, for the year 1955-1956, as appointed by the president of the Lodge, Eric Rosenbaum, in May, 1955, and as serving in September, 1955, were as follows:

Americanism Committee: Archie Ellenbogen
 Anti-Defamation Committee: A. David Abrams
 Hillel Building and Foundation Committee: Manuel Pickus and M. Edward Harvit
 Adult Education Committee: Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling
 Membership Committee: Harold Rudin and Harry Lewin
 Publicity and Publication Committee: Max H. Wender
 Program and Entertainment Committee: Eric Rosenbaum
 Sick and Charity Committee: Isadore R. Wein
 Telephone Committee: Manuel Pickus, Abraham I. Shinedling, and Daniel M. Saks
 VAVS Committee: Daniel M. Saks
 Parliamentarian: William Klein

On October 12, 1955, Dr. Bernard E. Silverman was elected treasurer of Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith, for the balance

of the annual term until May, 1956, to replace Max H. Wender, who had resigned from this office because of ill health, after serving since May, 1955.

The two rosters of B'nai B'rith members given below, for the year 1953-1954 and for the year 1954-1955, indicate the constant shifting of, and loss of, membership which takes place from year to year. From September 1, 1952, to October 30, 1955, Beckley Lodge No. 1360 lost 20 members, through deaths, resignations, and the removal of members from the city and area; and its membership declined from about 60 in September, 1952, to about 40 in October, 1955.

Thus the membership of Beckley Lodge was as follows, in the five-year period from 1950 to 1955:

September 1, 1950—64 members

September 1, 1952—60 members

May 1, 1953—52 members

September 1, 1954—50 members

October 31, 1955—40 members

From September 1, 1950, through October 31, 1955, thus a five-year period, the Beckley Lodge lost a total of 24 members. This is perhaps a phenomenon which is not unknown to, but is experienced by, all Jewish lodges, organizations, and congregations, or at least by many of them, in the smaller cities of the United States, and is not peculiar to the Beckley Lodge or to the Beckley community.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF BECKLEY LODGE NUMBER 1360, OF THE B'NAI B'RITH

Adopted at Beckley, West Virginia, in April-May, 1953

B'NAI B'RITH

The B'nai B'rith has taken upon itself the mission of uniting Jews in the work of promoting their highest interests and those of humanity; of developing and elevating the mental and moral character of the people of our faith; of inculcating the purest principles of philanthropy, science, and art; alleviating the wants of the poor and needy; visiting and attending the sick; coming to the rescue of victims of persecution; and providing for, protecting, and assisting the widow and the orphan on the broadest principles of humanity.

ARTICLE I

Name

Section 1. This Lodge shall be known by the name and title of **BECKLEY LODGE NO. 1360, B'NAI B'RITH.**

ARTICLE II

Meetings

Section 1-A. The regular meetings of the Lodge shall be held every other Thursday* of every month, except for the summer months of June, July, and August, at 8:00 P. M. [6:00 P. M. for the monthly dinner meeting]. Should a meeting fall upon a Jewish or a legal holiday, the President shall have the power to fix another day for such meeting, and the members shall be duly notified thereof.

[*In early September, 1955, this section was changed to provide for 2 meetings a month, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday nights of the month, with one such meeting being a dinner meeting.]

Section 1-B. Except for the summer months of June, July, and August, during which the regular meetings shall be held only on the first Thursday [the 2nd Wednesday] of these months, at 8:00 P. M.

Section 1-C. The Lodge may, by resolution, direct that meetings be omitted during the summer months.

Section 1-D. Upon written notice to each member, the regular meetings may be held at another hour deemed more convenient to the Lodge, but upon the regularly scheduled meeting nights.

Section 2. The hour of meeting shall be 8:00 P. M. [dinner meetings 6:00 P. M.]. At the expiration of ten minutes after the time specified, the President, or, in his absence, one of the two vice-presidents, or, in the event of the absence of both, any Past President, shall take the chair.

Section 3. Special meetings shall be called by the President at his discretion, or by the written request of not less than ten (10) members of the Lodge in good standing, or by a majority vote of the members present at a regular meeting of the Lodge, and shall be held within seven days after receipt of request therefor or the vote of the Lodge. The Secretary shall notify the members in writing or by call of the time, place, and object of the meeting, at least three days in advance of the time set therefor. No business shall be transacted at a special meeting other than that for which such meeting has been called.

Section 4. At regular and special meetings ten (10) members shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1. Only male Jews over twenty-one years of age and of good moral character shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Applicants for membership shall be proposed at an open meeting of the Lodge.

Section 2-A. Application for membership signed by the applicant and by the member recommending him, accompanied by a check for \$15.00 or for the balance of the year's dues, shall be presented to the Lodge at the following meeting.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of every member to give to the President such information as he may possess respecting a candidate before the application is voted upon.

Section 4. All applications shall be voted upon in open Lodge at the second meeting after the proposal of the new member, and rejected if there are three or more negative votes, in secret ballot. A rejected application shall not be again proposed for membership until six months from the date of rejection.

Section 5. Candidates whose applications are to be voted on must be present at the meeting at which such applications are to be acted on.

Section 6. Applicants for membership by initiation shall be inducted in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE IV

Dues

Section 1. Every member shall pay annual dues of \$15.00, payable quarterly in advance.

Section 2. Any member delinquent in his dues for 30 days or more, and failing to pay the sum within 30 days after notice by the Treasurer, may be suspended by the President for such period as he deems proper.

Section 3. Any member delinquent in his dues for a period of six months or more may, at the discretion of the Lodge, and not sooner than 30 days after having received written notification of such intention from the Lodge, be dropped from the rolls of the Lodge and no longer be able to enjoy the rights and privileges of B'nai B'rith.

ARTICLE V

The Executive Committee

Section 1. The Lodge shall have an Executive Committee, which shall be empowered to act in the interim between meetings of the Lodge on any matter which may come up in between meetings. All monetary questions must be approved by the Budget Committee [known also as the three Trustees].

Section 2. Such Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, First Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Monitor [Chaplain], Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms [Guardian], Warden, and the Trustees (the Budget Committee) of the Lodge.

Section 2-A. A quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of six of the above.

Section 3. Such Executive Committee shall adopt its own rules as to meetings, and a record of its proceedings shall be kept by the Lodge secretary, or by an acting secretary appointed at the Executive Committee meeting, and such record shall at all times be open to the inspection of any member of the Committee and of any member in good standing in the Lodge.

Section 4. All actions of the Executive Committee must be reported by the secretary or by the acting secretary in writing at the next regular meeting of the Lodge following such action.

ARTICLE VI

Officers and Their Duties

Section 1. The Officers of this Lodge shall be: a President; a First Vice-President; a Second Vice-President; a Secretary; a Treasurer; a Chaplain (or Monitor); a Warden; a Sergeant-at-Arms [Guardian], and three Trustees (known also as the Budget Committee).

Section 2. No person other than a member in good standing for one year shall be elected to any office, nor except by a majority of all the votes at a regular meeting.

Section 2-A. Only members in good standing who shall have served in at least one other elective office for one year shall be eligible for the office of President.

Section 3. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Lodge; he shall preside at all meetings; preserve, and have full power and authority to enforce, order and decorum; his decisions shall be subject to action by the Lodge. He shall strictly enforce the Constitution and General Laws of the Order and the Constitution and By-Laws of this Lodge; see that all Officers and members of the Committees perform their respective duties; enforce all fines and penalties; appoint all committees, if not otherwise directed by the Lodge; in case of a tie, cast the deciding vote, except in the election of Officers; announce the result of all balloting or other voting by the Lodge; sign all drafts upon the treasury, for such sums as may have been voted by the Lodge or other constituted authority; and perform such other duties pertaining to this office as may be required.

Section 4. The First Vice-President shall perform all the duties of the President during the President's absence or in his inability to act. The First Vice-President shall be empowered to sign checks on the treasury in the absence of the President. The First Vice-President shall also be an ex-officio member of and in charge of the following Standing Committees of the Lodge:

Adult Education Committee (Library)
Anti-Defamation Committee

Auditing Committee
 Membership and Retention Committee
 Program Committee (Entertainment)
 Ritual Committee
 Sick and Distress Committee
 Social Service (Charity) Committee
 United Jewish Appeal Committee

Section 5. The Second Vice-President shall preside at meetings of the Lodge in the absence of both the President and the First Vice President. The Second Vice-President shall also be an ex-officio member of and in charge of the following Standing Committees of the Lodge:

Americanism Committee
 Athletics Committee [none in 1955-1956]
 Hillel Building Fund Committee
 Hillel Foundation Committee
 Publicity and Publication Committee
 Telephone Committee
 VAVS Committee
 Wider Scope Committee [none in 1955-1956]
 Youth—B'nai B'rith Youth Organization Committee [none in 1955-1956]

Section 6. The Secretary shall keep true and full records of the proceedings of all regular and special meetings of the Lodge and of the Executive Committee, if any, and he shall perform such other duties as are usually pertinent to his office or which may be required by the Lodge. The records of the Secretary shall be open at all times to the inspection of any officer of the Lodge and of any member in good standing.

Section 7. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds and securities of the Lodge; he shall keep full and accurate records of all receipts and disbursements, and shall deposit the funds of the Lodge in the name of the Lodge in such depository as may be designated by the Trustees (the Budget Committee). He shall, with the President, sign all instruments for the disbursements of the funds of the Lodge, and shall perform such other duties as are usually pertinent to his office and which may be required of him by the Lodge. The books and records of the Treasurer shall be open at all times to the inspection of the Officers of the Lodge and of any member of the Lodge in good standing.

Section 8. The Chaplain (Monitor), Warden, and Guardian (or Sergeant-at-Arms) shall perform such duties as may, from time to time, be assigned to them by the Lodge.

Section 9. It shall be the duty of the Trustees (the Budget Committee) to exercise general supervisory control over all matters affecting the welfare of the Lodge and any of its members, and they shall have such powers and authority as may from time to time be delegated to them by the Lodge and which are not inconsistent with the other provisions of these By-Laws. The Trustees (the Budget Committee) shall pass on

the expenditures of all sums of money in excess of \$10.00 which have been approved by the Lodge or by the Executive Committee.

The Trustees (the Budget Committee) shall be three in number, and shall consist of the immediate Past President of the Lodge, as well as of 2 other Past Presidents. Each Trustee shall be appointed for a three-year term. The decision of the Trustees (the Budget Committee) on all matters dealing with the expenditures of money may be overridden by the members of the Lodge by a vote of three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the members present at a meeting.

Section 10. Any officer who shall be absent from 3 consecutive meetings of the Lodge, unless he shall furnish a valid excuse (except in case of illness), may be removed from office by a majority vote of the members of the Lodge present at a meeting.

ARTICLE VII

Nomination and Election of Officers

Section 1. All officers shall be elected by ballot at the first regular meeting of the Lodge in the month of April in each year, and they shall continue in office for the term of one year from their election and until their successors are elected and qualify.

Section 2. At the 2nd meeting in February in each year, the President shall appoint five members in good standing from the floor, two of whom shall be Past Presidents, who, together with the President and the Secretary, shall constitute a committee for the purpose of selecting members to be nominated for offices for the ensuing year. It shall be the duty of this committee to present to the Lodge at the first meeting in March in each year a list of nominees for the various offices.

Section 2-A. Further nominations may be made from the floor at the second meeting in March in each year, by any member in good standing.

Section 2-B. No member may be nominated for any office, either by the nominating committee or from the floor, without having given his consent thereto either to the nominating committee or to the Lodge at the time of his nomination.

Section 3. Any person shall be eligible to any office in the Lodge, except the Chaplain (Monitor), who has been a member in good standing in this Lodge for at least one year preceding his election to office, with the exception as stated in Article VI, Section 2-A.

Section 4. Any person shall be eligible for appointment by the Executive Committee to the office of Trustee (Budget Committee member) who has been a Past President of this Lodge and is a member in good standing.

ARTICLE VIII

District Grand Lodge Representative

Section 1. This Lodge shall nominate and elect any number of delegates to represent the Lodge at the District Grand Lodge Convention each year as it so desires, provided, however, that such number of delegates must not exceed the permitted number. Such delegates must be nominated and elected not later than 30 days before the District Grand Lodge Convention meets. The Lodge may contribute toward the expenses of any delegates, such action being at the discretion of the Lodge.

ARTICLE IX

Standing Committees

Section 1. The President shall, at the first regular meeting of the Lodge following his installation, appoint the following Standing Committees:

1. Adult Education (Library)
2. Americanism
3. Anti-Defamation
4. Athletics [none in 1955-1956]
5. Auditing
6. Hillel Building Fund
7. Hillel Foundation
8. Membership and Retention
9. Program (Entertainment)
10. Publicity and Publication
11. Ritual Committee
12. Sick and Distress
13. Social Service (Charity)
14. Telephone
15. United Jewish Appeal
16. VAVS
17. Wider Scope [none in 1955-1956]
18. Youth—BBYO [none in 1955-1956]

Section 2. Each Committee shall consist of three or more members in good standing, and their term of office shall coincide with the term of office of the President by whom they are appointed.

Section 3. The President and either the 1st or the 2nd Vice President of the Lodge shall be ex-officio members of all Committees.

Section 4. The duties of said Committees shall be such as may from time to time be prescribed by the President, by and with the consent of the Lodge.

Section 5. No Committee shall incur any indebtedness in the name of the Lodge or for and on its behalf without the direct authorization of the Lodge.

ARTICLE X

Discipline

Section 1. Any member who shall divulge the name of anyone who may speak or vote against a candidate for membership or who shall in any wise be guilty of conduct unbecoming a gentleman shall, after the filing of written charges and after due trial by the Lodge, be punished by fine, suspension, or expulsion by a majority of the members of the Lodge at any regular or special meeting of the Lodge.

Section 2. No member shall be tried, fined, suspended, or expelled until he shall have had at least 30 days' written notice of the charges against him, and a reasonable opportunity personally, or by means of counsel, to present his defense to the charges made against him.

Section 3. Any member who shall knowingly file false charges against another member shall, upon conviction thereof, be summarily expelled from membership.

ARTICLE XI

Order of Business

Section 1. At all regular meetings of the Lodge the following shall be the order of business:

1. Roll Call of Officers
2. Reading of the minutes not yet approved
3. Balloting on Candidates
4. Initiation of Candidates
5. Reading of applications for membership
6. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
7. Applications for relief and information concerning members in distress
8. Communications, in the following order:
 - (a) From the Executive Committee of the Supreme Lodge
 - (b) From the District Grand Lodge
 - (c) From the State Council
 - (d) From Sister Lodges
 - (e) From members of the Order
 - (f) General Communications
9. Treasurer's Report
10. Unfinished Business
11. New Business
12. Good and Welfare of the Lodge

ARTICLE XII

Procedure and Rules

Section 1. When the President takes the chair, the Officers shall take their positions and the members shall be seated, and at the sound

of the gavel, there shall be general silence. The President shall then proceed to open the Lodge in due form, with the ritual. The reading of the ritual may be dispensed with, by a majority vote of the members present.

Section 2. The President shall proceed and pronounce decision of the Lodge on all subjects; he shall decide all questions of order without debate, subject to an appeal to the Lodge by any member who may dissent from the same, which appeal must be seconded, when the question shall be: "Shall the decision of the chair stand as the judgment of the Lodge?", on which no member shall speak more than once without special permission of the Lodge, which must be granted or withheld without debate. Questions of appeal, and all questions which arise while they are pending, shall be taken and announced or decided by the President.

Section 2-A. The President shall appoint a Parliamentarian to serve the term of the office of the President.

Section 3. No question shall be stated unless moved and seconded, nor be open for discussion until stated by the President; and when the motion is before the Lodge, the only motion in order shall be:

- (1) to lay on the table
- (2) the previous question
- (3) to postpone indefinitely
- (4) to postpone to a certain day
- (5) to recommit
- (6) to refer
- (7) to amend

They shall take precedence in the order here arranged, and the first two shall be decided without debate.

Section 4. On the call for the previous question, the President shall put the question in this form: "Shall the main question now be put?" If the motion is carried, the vote shall first be put upon all pending amendments, after which upon the main question.

Section 5. No motion shall be made by one member while another is speaking, and no motion shall be made or seconded without rising and addressing the President, and he shall not recognize a motion or second made contrary to this rule.

Section 6. If, upon taking a vote upon any question (except in balloting for Officers), the members are evenly divided, then it becomes the duty of the President or of the presiding officer to give the deciding vote, in doing which he may, if he so desires, give his reasons.

Section 7. Any member making a motion shall reduce the same to writing, at the request of the President or of any member. Resolutions shall be presented in writing, signed by the member offering the same; in either case they shall not be before the Lodge until they are read or stated by the President or Secretary.

Section 8. When any communication, petition, or memorial is presented, a brief statement of its contents shall be made before it is read, and after it has been read, a brief notice of its purport shall be entered in the minutes.

Section 9. When the reading of any paper is called for, and an objection is made by any member, it shall be determined by a vote of the Lodge.

Section 10. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, except it be to call him to order, or for the purpose of an explanation.

Section 11. If, during a member's remarks, any other member should desire to give information pertinent to the subject and short in its nature, or to ask a question of the same character to be answered by the member having the floor, he must rise, and he must, through the President, request the member having the floor for permission to that effect, and if refused, he shall immediately resume his seat, the floor still remaining in the possession of the first-mentioned member; but no member shall keep the floor for more than five minutes if any objection is made.

Section 12. If any member, while speaking, be called to order, he shall, at the request of the President, take his seat until the question of order is determined, when, if he is permitted, he shall resume again.

Section 13. When a member has occasion to make any verbal communication to the Lodge, in the form of a motion or otherwise, he shall rise in his place and address himself to the President by his proper title, who shall thereupon announce the member to the Lodge as having the floor by calling the name of the same. Until thus recognized by the President, no member shall attempt to speak.

Section 14. The members shall confine themselves only to the question under debate, and shall avoid personalities and indecorous and sarcastic language.

Section 15. If two or more members endeavor to obtain the floor at the same time, the member first addressing the President by his proper title, and first heard by him, shall be adjudged the floor, and no member shall speak more than once on the same subject or question until all who wish to speak shall have had an opportunity to do so, nor more than twice, without the permission of the President. Each member, while speaking, shall designate the officer or member spoken of by his proper title, according to his standing in the Lodge.

Section 16. Before putting the question, the President shall ask, "Is the Lodge ready for the question?", when, if no member rises to speak, he shall rise and put the question, and after he has risen for that purpose, no further discussion or motions shall be entertained until the question has been decided. While the President is addressing the Lodge, or putting the question, silence shall be observed in the Lodge.

Section 17. After any question, except one of indefinite postponement, has been decided, any member who voted with the majority may, at the same or the next session, move for a reconsideration thereof, but no discussion of the main question shall be allowed unless reconsidered. A motion to reconsider a vote to reconsider can not be entertained.

Section 18. A motion to rescind any previous action of the Lodge can be carried only by a two-thirds ($2/3$) vote of all members present.

Section 19. When a member has been called to order for a manifestation of temper or improper conduct, he shall not be permitted to speak again at that session upon the same subject, unless by permission of the Lodge.

Section 20. In speaking on points of order, the President shall have the precedence; but he can not speak on any other subject, unless to state the facts within his own knowledge.

Section 21. No member shall retire without the permission of the President. During the opening and the closing of the Lodge, the reading of the minutes, and initiations, the door shall be closed.

Section 22. Any member having made a motion may withdraw it, with the consent of his second, before it is debated, but not afterwards without permission of the Lodge.

Section 23. When a majority report is followed by a report from the minority of a committee, the former, after being read, shall lie upon the table until the matter has been presented; after which, on motion, either may be considered.

Section 24. No motion to adjourn can be entertained, but when the regular order of business shall have been completed, the Lodge shall be closed in due form. The closing hour is set for 10:00 P. M. for business meetings, except by vote of the membership to extend the time.

Section 25. Except as otherwise provided by these By-Laws, Roberts' Rules of Order for deliberative assemblies shall prevail.

ARTICLE XIII

Amendment and Repeal

Section 1. These By-Laws may be repealed, altered, or amended at any regular or special meeting of the Lodge, provided that not less than thirty days' notice in writing, or a notice by means of a personal call, shall have been given to every member of the Lodge in good standing of such alteration or amendment which is to be acted upon.

Section 2. A two-thirds ($2/3$) majority of the members present at such meeting shall be required for amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws.

Membership List of Beckley Lodge Number 1360**As of May 1, 1953****(52 Members on May 1, 1953)**

Harry Abel	Mount Hope, W. Va.
David Arnstein	610 South Oakwood Avenue
A. David Abrams	111 Springdale Avenue
Jack Binderman, Sr.	125 Westwood Drive
Dr. Jack Binderman, Jr.	125 Westwood Drive
(in service)	
William Binderman	1544 Harper Road
Archie Ellenbogen	314 Woodlawn Avenue
Israel Fink	115 Church Street
Louis J. Fink	217 Woodlawn Avenue
Sidney Fink	Foote St., Raleigh Heights
Dr. Saul Fortunoff	Veterans Site (VA Hospital)
Joseph Freed	Embee's, 118 Main Street
Arthur Goldstein	No. 16, Meadows Apts., So. Kanawha St., E. Beckley
Irving Goldstein	204 Granville Avenue
M. Edward Harvit	421 Woodlawn Avenue
Dr. Lee Hedson	Lillybrook, W. Va.
Joseph B. Heller	113 Church Street
Morris Hochman	116 Williams Street
Sam Hochman	118 Mason Street
Edward M. Kandell	108½ King Street
William Klein	110 West Virginia Street
Charles H. Levine	1004 Woodlawn Avenue
Robert H. Levine	1016 Woodlawn Avenue
Harry Lewin	Johnstown Road
Max Lewin	505 Woodlawn Avenue
Benjamin Lewis	Mount Hope, West Virginia
Benjamin E. Lewis	Mel-Frances Apts., 518 Woodlawn Avenue
Nathan Matz	116 Ann Street
Joseph R. Miller	326 Mankin Avenue
Gerald Pickus	528 Woodlawn Avenue
James Pickus	215 Woodlawn Avenue
Malcolm Pickus	300½ Highland Avenue
Manuel Pickus	215 Woodlawn Avenue
Nathan Pickus	528 Woodlawn Avenue
Eric Rosenbaum	120 West C Street
Theodore Rosenbaum	120 West C Street
(honorary member)	
Harold Rudin	1019 Woodlawn Avenue
Bernard L. Saks	423½ Woodlawn Avenue
Daniel M. Saks	423 Woodlawn Avenue
Herman Samans	317 Woodlawn Avenue
Edward Saymen	107 Lilly Street
Calvin Schildkraut	110 Greenbrier Court
Maurice Selden	104½ Virginia Street

Dr. Leo Sherman	Sophia, West Virginia
Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling	219 Crawford Street
Jacob Silverberg	106 Bellevue Lane
Harold Sopher	514 Orchard Avenue
Ira Sopher	514 Orchard Avenue
Charles Stromberg	602 North Kanawha Street
Harry Stromberg	111 Freeman Street
Isadore R. Wein	107 Queen Street
Morri R. Wein	P. O. Box 1155
Max H. Wender	112 Ann Street
Morris S. Wender, Jr.	Oak Hill, West Virginia

**Roster of Members of Beckley Lodge No. 1360 of the B'nai B'rith,
in September, 1954**

Harry Abel (Mount Hope) (died on December 29, 1954)	Harry Lewin Max Lewin
A. David Abrams	Benjamin Lewis (Mount Hope)
Maurice Baer	Benjamin E. Lewis
Jack Binderman, Sr.	Nathan Matz
Dr. Jack Binderman, Jr. (moved to San Diego, Calif., in early 1955)	Joseph R. Miller James Pickus Manuel Pickus
William Binderman	Nathan Pickus
Archie Ellenbogen	Eric Rosenbaum
Louis J. Fink	Theodore Rosenbaum (honorary member)
Morie Fink	Harold Rudin
Dr. Saul Fortunoff	Bernard L. Saks (moved to Waynesboro, Va., late in June, 1955)
Joseph Freed (moved to Parkers- burg, W. Va., in January, 1955)	Daniel M. Saks
Arthur Goldstein	Herman Samans
Irving Goldstein	Edward Saymen
M. Edward Harvit	Maurice Selden
Morris Hochman	Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling
Sam Hochman	Jacob Silverberg
Arthur Horowitz (moved to Charleston, W. Va., at the end of 1954)	Dr. Bernard E. Silverman
Bernard Lande (returned to Denver, Colo., in June, 1955, after the expiration of his term of two years' service with the Beckley branch of the United States Recruiting Service)	Harold A. Sopher Ira B. Sopher Charles Stromberg Harry Stromberg (moved to Albany, N. Y., in early 1955)
William Klein	Isadore R. Wein
Charles H. Levine	Morri R. Wein
Robert H. Levine (in November, 1954, he moved to Charleston, W. Va.)	Max H. Wender Morris S. Wender, Jr. (Oak Hill) Louis Wolman

(50 members in September, 1954)

In November, 1955, Albert Abel, of Mount Hope, W. Va., and Robert W. Saks again became members of Beckley Lodge No. 1360.

In addition, there were about a dozen Jewish men living in Beckley, Mount Hope, and Oak Hill, who were not members of the local B'nai B'rith Lodge in September, 1954, either never having affiliated themselves with the local lodge, or having withdrawn their membership for various reasons.

Past Members of the Lodge (1950-1955)

A comparison with the list of members of the Beckley Lodge of the B'nai B'rith as of May 1, 1953, as printed at the back of the *Constitution and By-Laws, B'nai B'rith Lodge No. 1360, of Beckley, W. Va.*, published in June, 1953, by the Lodge, shows the following losses in membership of the Lodge since 1950, due to the resignation of members (indicated by the symbol ‡), to deaths (indicated by the symbol *), and to removals from the city (indicated by the symbol †):

*Harry Abel (Mount Hope)	†Robert H. Levine
*Samuel I. Abrams	†Gerald Pickus
‡David Arnstein (died in November, 1954)	†Malcolm Pickus
‡Maurice Baer	†Calvin Schildkraut
†Jack Binderman, Jr.	†Albert Schwartz
‡Alfred E. Cohen	†Dr. Leo Sherman (Dr. Leo Sherman, son of Dr. H. Viola Shlickerman, after serving as physician for a mining company at Sophia, W. Va., for a year, left Beckley in 1954, to enter private practice in Wilmington, Del.)
†Israel Fink	‡Harold A. Sopher
‡Sidney Fink	‡Ira B. Sopher
*Marc L. Front	†Harry Stromberg
†Joseph Freed	†Sidney Stromberg
†Dr. Lee Hedson (employed for several years as physician at the Lillybrook Coal Company)	
*Joseph B. Heller	
‡Edward M. Kandell	
†Arthur Horowitz	

(a total of 24 members in the 5-year period)

For several years, up to November, 1954, the Beckley Lodge No. 1360, of the B'nai B'rith, maintained a basketball team (in its name and also in that of Temple Beth El) in the Church Basketball League of Beckley, captained by Malcolm Pickus (he was also chairman or co-chairman for several years of the Church League); this team was disbanded in November, 1954, due to severe losses in players as members moved away from the city.

(Also, three of the team's players went off to college.)

The members of this B'nai B'rith-Temple Beth El basketball team during this period (1948-1954) included:

Maurice Baer	Robert H. Levine
William Binderman	Gerald A. Pickus
Peter Ellenbogen	Malcolm Pickus
Jack Front	Calvin J. Schildkraut
Robert B. Harvit	Maurice Selden
Sam Hochman	Isadore R. Wein

B. The B'nai B'rith Emergency Fund

On January 15, 1953, the Beckley Lodge of the B'nai B'rith established the B'nai B'rith Emergency Fund, with an initial capital of about \$600, for the purpose of helping members of the Jewish community (not necessarily members of the congregation or of the B'nai B'rith Lodge) who may, in the future, be in distress or who may need financial assistance. The fund was set up through donations from individual members of the Lodge on a one-time basis, through a grant of funds from the Lodge itself, and through contributions of a percentage of the net proceeds from various financial projects of the local B'nai B'rith Lodge.

The following is a documentary history of the genesis and establishment of the B'nai B'rith Emergency Fund:

The B'nai B'rith Emergency Fund,
Established on Thursday, January 15, 1953,
by Beckley Lodge Number 1360
of the B'nai B'rith
at Beckley, West Virginia

The first Board of Directors of the B'nai B'rith Emergency Fund was constituted as follows:

4-year term: Isadore R. Wein and Sidney Fink
3-year term: Robert H. Levine and M. Edward Harvit
2-year term: Irving Goldstein and Nathan Pickus
1-year term: A. David Abrams and Archie Ellenbogen

Officers (elected at the first meeting of the Board of Directors, held on January 18, 1953, Sunday morning, at the home [421 Woodlawn Avenue] of M. Edward Harvit, a member of the Board of Directors):

Chairman: Isadore R. Wein
Treasurer: Sidney Fink
Secretary: Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling

In 1954, Edward Saymen was elected treasurer in place of Sidney Fink, who had resigned. In that same year, when the one-year terms of A. David Abrams and Archie Ellenbogen expired, William Binderman and Edward Saymen were elected to take their places. Dr. Saul Fortunoff was elected a director for a 3-year term, upon the resignation of Sidney Fink as a director. William Binderman and Edward Saymen were elected directors for a full 4-year term.

At the end of 1954, the Emergency Fund had resources totalling more than \$700, for the emergency relief of Jewish residents of the Beckley community and vicinity, whether congregational or B'nai B'rith members or not.

The B'nai B'rith Emergency Fund Committee on Organization

At the direction of the president of this lodge (Beckley Lodge No. 1360 of the B'nai B'rith), this Committee met for the purpose of creating a plan to set up an emergency fund. The following plan has been devised and is being submitted for the consideration and approval of the membership. This fund is to be called the B'nai B'rith Emergency Fund. Funds are to be deposited in a separate account, and are to be given, or loaned and repaid if the recipient is able. This money is to be used in emergencies only, and is for the use of all members of the Jewish community who are judged to be in need of this aid, such as cases of destitution, death in the family, illness, relocation, and business reverses.

This Fund is to be used only when all other avenues of aid by the individual have been exhausted. This Fund is to be administered by a committee who will decide the degree of necessity and the amount of money required to ameliorate this need, and the matter is not to be brought before the membership [of the local B'nai B'rith Lodge] at large.

The committee should consist of seven (7) members, approved by the Lodge membership. A majority of four will be required for positive action. This committee should be a permanent one, and members, after initial appointment, will serve indefinitely. In the event of the relocation or death of a member, his replacement will be appointed by the remaining members of the Committee.

An alternate plan would be for the committee to consist of eight (8) members to be appointed (elected) for four-, three-, two-, and one-year terms, respectively, two members to be elected each year for a four-year term, to replace those whose terms have expired. [This alternate plan was adopted by the Lodge membership.] In the vote cast for these members, the two highest will serve for four-year terms, the next two for three-year terms, the next two for two-year terms, etc. Five members will constitute a quorum for positive action.

The maximum amount to be used in any needy case shall not exceed 50% of the money in the Emergency Fund at the time the necessity arises.

Suggested Methods of Raising Funds [all of them adopted]:

1. \$250.00 to be donated to the B'nai B'rith Emergency Fund by the B'nai B'rith Lodge, as the initial basis of the Fund.
2. Each member of the local B'nai B'rith Lodge will be asked to donate at least \$5.00, for the initiation of this Fund.
3. 10% of the profits of any and all affairs sponsored by the B'nai B'rith Lodge shall be placed in this Fund for the purpose of maintaining this Fund.

The Rabbi is to be a permanent advisory member of this Committee.

The above plan was submitted for the consideration and adoption of the membership of the Beckley B'nai B'rith Lodge, and it was adopted.

The above Committee consisted of:

Isadore R. Wein
A. David Abrams
Archie Ellenbogen
Dr. Saul Fortunoff

C. The Temple Beth El Cemetery

Up to May, 1954, Beth El Congregation did not have its own cemetery. The dead of the congregation and community were buried in Baltimore, Md.; in Charleston, W. Va.; in New York City or Brooklyn, or on Long Island; in the Monte Vista Cemetery of the Bluefield-Princeton Congregation (Jewish section, located on the new Bluefield-Princeton Road, about 4 miles from Bluefield, W. Va.); in Cincinnati, Ohio; or in other cities.

However, in May, 1954, after negotiations had been entered into between the Cemetery Committee headed by Nathan Pickus (these negotiations had been begun on April 27, 1953), and consisting of Isadore R. Wein, Nathan Pickus, Irving Goldstein, and Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling, an agreement was arrived at between the Homeseekers Land and Building Company, of Beckley, represented by its secretary-treasurer, O. F. Cook, and by its president, the late (died in 1954) Lacy Trump, on the one hand, and Congregation Beth El, on the other hand, whereby the Congregation purchased a section of the Sunset Memorial Cemetery, located about three miles north of the center of Beckley, on Harper Road, for use as the Cemetery of Congregation Beth El, inclusive of perpetual care. The new Jewish section of this cemetery was dedicated by Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling and Isadore R. Wein, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Congregation, on Memorial (Decoration) Day, Sunday, May 30, 1954, at 4:00 P.M., in the presence of a representative number of the men and women of the Congregation.

The following is a documentary account of the formation of the Cemetery of Congregation Beth El:

Cemetery Committee Report

Beckley, West Virginia
November 10, 1952

TO OUR MEMBERS:

B'nai B'rith Beckley Lodge No. 1360, at its meeting of Thursday evening, October 30, 1952, by unanimous vote of the members present, approved and adopted a plan for the formation of, or the securing of, a Jewish Cemetery in Beckley.

For this purpose, a Special Committee, appointed by the President of the Lodge [then Harold Rudin], met with the realtors of the Sunset Memorial Cemetery, and worked out with them an agreement with the

Sunset Memorial Cemetery, whereby a suitable portion of the Sunset Memorial Cemetery, containing 500 or more individual plots, would be set aside in perpetuity for our exclusive use, as a Jewish cemetery, in a separate section of the Cemetery to be known as the Jewish Cemetery.

This section, containing 500 (or more, if desired) individual plots or graves, was inspected (as were two additional sections or sites) by a group of six or more local B'nai B'rith and congregational members (including the undersigned) — three of them are also directors of Temple Beth El — and its acquisition as a Jewish cemetery was unanimously approved by them. The plan for the new Jewish Cemetery contemplates that the actual cemetery land is to continue to be owned by the Sunset Memorial Cemetery, which is to provide perpetual care for the Jewish section, but plots are to be sold, at the price of \$100.00 each, to members of the Jewish Community whenever these plots are needed. Furthermore, if the members of the Jewish community desire, they may purchase these plots ahead of time, at the above-stated price.

Three sections of land available for use as a Jewish Cemetery are available, and were inspected by the above Committee, and it will be up to the Jewish Community as a whole to decide whether to approve the cemetery project above described as a whole, as well as to decide which of these three plots is to be selected finally for use as a Jewish Cemetery. [It is understood that the Jewish Cemetery which is finally approved and selected is to be marked with a marker, archway and/or other means, including Hebrew words and a Jewish star, whereby it will easily be able to be distinguished as a Jewish cemetery.]

This letter is being sent to you and to all our members for your consideration and approval, so that you may know the situation, and so that, within a short time, you may decide whether to approve the following Resolution:

"Whereas, at the present time (1952), the Beckley Hebrew Association (Temple Beth El), of Beckley, West Virginia, does not possess a Jewish cemetery, and such burial-ground is greatly needed in our large and growing community;

"And whereas a portion of the Sunset Memorial Cemetery is now available for our use as such Jewish cemetery, with perpetual care, with title to remain vested in the Sunset Memorial Cemetery, and with 500 or more plots or graves being made available for our use as a Jewish cemetery, such Jewish Cemetery to be distinguished by some suitable means as a Jewish Cemetery;

"And whereas the directors and members of Temple Beth El and of the Special Committee of Beckley B'nai B'rith Lodge No. 1360 who have inspected this site unanimously approved of the acquisition of such Jewish Cemetery, under the above terms, and believe it essential for the peace and security of our membership;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that the membership of Temple Beth El approve the above decision and recommendation, and establish a Jewish

Cemetery, and set up a Temple Cemetery Committee along the above-suggested lines, and enter at once into the proper negotiations with the Sunset Memorial Cemetery for this purpose, to the end that a Jewish Cemetery be acquired here in Beckley for our exclusive use forever.

(Signed)

“Nathan Pickus, Chairman
Malcolm Pickus, Co-Chairman
Isadore R. Wein
Sidney Fink
William Binderman
Arthur Goldstein
A. David Abrams
Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling.”

As stated above, in June, 1955, the personnel of the Cemetery Committee of Congregation Beth El consisted of the following:

Nathan Pickus, Chairman
Isadore R. Wein
Irving Goldstein
Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling

D. The Beckley Chapter of Hadassah

The Beckley Chapter of Hadassah (Hadassah is the Women's Zionist Organization of America) was formed on April 13, 1948, at a tea given to fifteen Jewish women of the community attending in the home of Mrs. Charles H. Levine (Mrs. Violet G. Levine), at 1004 Woodlawn Avenue. The guest speaker of the occasion was Mrs. Ezra Shapiro, of Cleveland, Ohio. Later, the charter was presented to the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah by Mrs. Jacob B. Hurwitz, of Cleveland, vice-president of the Central States Region of Hadassah, in May, 1948, at a dinner meeting held at the El Chico Restaurant, on South Fayette St., between Main and McCreery Streets; at that time Mrs. Hurwitz installed the first set of officers of the Beckley Hadassah, as follows:

President: Mrs. Violet G. Levine
1st Vice President: Mrs. Beatrice C. Binderman (Mrs. William Binderman)
2nd Vice President: Mrs. Shirley F. Stromberg (Mrs. Harry Stromberg)
Treasurer: Mrs. Anne K. Harvit (Mrs. M. Edward Harvit)
Recording Secretary: Mrs. Minnie G. Samans (Mrs. Herman Samans)
Financial Secretary: Mrs. Estelle Stromberg (Mrs. Sidney Stromberg)
Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Janet B. Levine (Mrs. Robert H. Levine)

(The original charter of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah, issued in May, 1948, was signed in pen and ink by all the 35 charter members of the organization; it is now (October, 1955) in the custody of Mrs. Violet G. Levine, the first president of the Beckley Hadassah. However, the original Constitution (and By-Laws) of the Beckley Hadassah, also adopted in May, 1948, is no longer extant (October, 1955), seemingly having been misplaced or inadvertently destroyed. A thorough search

for this Constitution, instituted at the time this book was being prepared, failed to turn it up.)

The Beckley Chapter of Hadassah belongs to the Central States Region, which includes the four states of Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, and Kentucky. It is also affiliated with the National Hadassah, which has its official headquarters in New York City.

The past presidents of the Beckley Hadassah were:

Mrs. Violet G. Levine (1948-1951)

Mrs. Zena Y. Hochman (Mrs. Sam Hochman) (1951-1953)

Mrs. Violet G. Levine (1953-1955) (Mrs. Levine served a second time in the office of president of Hadassah until September, 1955.)

In 1954, the officers of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah were:

President: Mrs. Violet G. Levine

1st Vice President: Mrs. Zena Y. Hochman

2nd Vice President: Mrs. Hannah H. Selden (Mrs. Maurice Selden)

Treasurer: Mrs. Ruth B. Saymen (Mrs. Edward Saymen)

Recording Secretary: Mrs. Beatrice C. Binderman

Financial Secretary: Mrs. Ida M. Klein (Mrs. William Klein)

Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Dorothy B. Fortunoff (Mrs. Saul Fortunoff)

All the above officers were still serving in June, 1955.

In September, 1955, Mrs. Hannah H. Selden was elected president of the Beckley Hadassah for a one-year term (1955-1956). All the above officers were re-elected for a one-year term (1955-1956); there was no 2nd vice president in 1955-1956.

It was Mrs. Violet G. Levine who conceived the idea of instituting a chapter of the Hadassah in Beckley. After a visit paid to neighboring Bluefield by a delegation of Beckley ladies, in March, 1948, in the course of which the Beckley ladies attended a luncheon meeting of the Bluefield Chapter of Hadassah at which the main speaker was Mrs. Martha Sharpe, a worker in the Youth Aliyah department of National Hadassah, the Beckley ladies, having had a chance to observe the workings and to learn the purposes and the aims of Hadassah, decided to organize a chapter of the Hadassah in Beckley. It was felt by the ladies who organized it that up to that time there was little or nothing being done in the field of Jewish charity, philanthropy, and social endeavor in the Beckley Jewish community (apart from an annual contribution to the United Jewish Appeal), since there was no Jewish Welfare Federation or Jewish community chest in the community, and even the annual United Jewish Appeal drive amounted at most only to a dinner and the collection of funds. It was felt that the medical, cultural, and humanitarian work for the new state of Israel was worthy of solid support, perhaps above all other outside causes, by the women of the Beckley Jewish community. It was therefore held, by the 35 Jewish women who organized the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah in 1948 or who became members thereafter, that the forming of a Hadassah chapter, with its

main purposes charitable, humanitarian, and hospital work in Israel on behalf of the Israelis and the Arabs alike, was an extremely worthwhile idea, and this idea was therefore put into execution, as has been described above.

At its peak, in 1948-1949, the membership of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah was 62 women. The membership suffered a decline to 24 in the year 1954-1955, for a variety of reasons, such as loss in membership due to members' leaving the city to settle elsewhere, financial conditions, and the adverse situation in the coalfields of Raleigh County and the contiguous regions.

In 1948-1949, the first year of its operation, the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah raised the sum of \$600 to bring a Jewish child from Europe to Israel and to rehabilitate this child in the Holy Land. During the years from 1948 through 1954, the Beckley Hadassah raised and contributed an average of \$600 per annum for the various projects and works of Hadassah on behalf of the State of Israel, including:

the Youth Aliyah

the Hadassah-Rothschild-Hebrew University Hospital

the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO)

vocational education in Israel (child welfare)

and for other work and projects in Israel.

In the year extending from October 1, 1952, to September 30, 1953 (the only year for which complete statistics are now available), for example, the Beckley Hadassah contributed as follows:

HMO — \$450

Youth Aliyah — \$300

Vocational Education — \$100

Youth Activities — \$25

Hadassah-Rothschild-University Hospital — \$225

Total — \$1,100

In 1955, the Beckley Hadassah raised and sent in about \$500 for Hadassah's various works and projects in Israel, including the Jewish National Fund (Keren Kayemeth Leyisrael), of whose blue boxes Mrs. Naomi A. Pickus has been custodian and treasurer since 1948.

Extremely active at all times in the work of Hadassah in Beckley since its inception in 1948 have been the following: Mrs. Ida M. Klein, Mrs. Violet G. Levine, Mrs. Manya S. Binderman, Mrs. Zena Y. Hochman, Mrs. Ruth B. Saymen, Mrs. Hannah H. Selden, Mrs. Minnie Fink, Mrs. Tillie M. Hochman, Mrs. Naomi A. Pickus, Mrs. Beatrice C. Binderman, Mrs. Helen L. Shinedling, Mrs. Anna P. Silverberg, and Mrs. Rose Y. Pickus.

The 35 Charter Members of the Beckley Hadassah

The following comprised the thirty-five charter members of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah at the time it was organized, in April, 1948:

†Mrs. Dora Abel (Mount Hope)	†Mrs. Robert Levine
Mrs. Ruth Abrams	†Mrs. Samuel M. Milstein
Mrs. Sam Abrams	Mrs. Rose Pickus
Mrs. David Arnstein	Mrs. Naomi Pickus
Mrs. Manya S. Binderman	†Mrs. Isadore Rich
Mrs. William Binderman	†Mrs. Marilyn Rose
Mrs. Alfred E. Cohen	†Mrs. Bernard L. Saks
†Mrs. Herbert E. Cohen	Mrs. Herman Samans
Mrs. Dorothy Ellenbogen	Mrs. Edward Saymen
Mrs. Sidney Fink	Mrs. Jacob Silverberg
†Mrs. Israel Fink	†Mrs. Bertha Sopher
Mrs. Minnie Fink	Mrs. Maxine Sopher
Mrs. Edward Harvit	Mrs. Charles Stromberg
Mrs. Tillie Hochman	†Mrs. Sidney Stromberg
Mrs. Sam Hochman	†Mrs. Harry Stromberg
*Mrs. Edwin Kamen	Mrs. Isadore R. Wein
Mrs. William Klein	†Mrs. J. H. Wolfe
Mrs. Charles Levine	

(All of these charter members signed the Hadassah charter in April and May, 1948.)

(In the above list, those marked with the asterisk * are deceased; those marked with the symbol † are no longer residents of Beckley.)

Roster of Members of the Beckley Hadassah in September, 1954:

The following 24 Jewish women of Beckley and vicinity were the members of the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah in September, 1954:

Mrs. Dora S. Abel (Mount Hope)	Mrs. Janet B. Levine (moved to
(moved to Baltimore, in April,	Charleston, W. Va., in
1955)	November, 1954)
Mrs. Esther B. Abrams	Mrs. Rose C. Matz
Mrs. Ruth L. Abrams	Mrs. Sylvia S. Miller
Mrs. Beatrice C. Binderman	Mrs. Naomi A. Pickus
Mrs. Manya S. Binderman	Mrs. Rose Y. Pickus
Mrs. Minnie Fink	Mrs. Ruth B. Saymen
Mrs. Dorothy B. Fortunoff	Mrs. Hannah H. Selden
Mrs. Tillie M. Hochman	Mrs. Helen L. Shinedling
Mrs. Zena Y. Hochman	Dr. H. Viola Shlickerman
Mrs. Eva Kishony	Mrs. Anna P. Silverberg
Mrs. Ida M. Klein	Mrs. Gussie M. Stromberg
Mrs. Violet G. Levine	Mrs. Jeanette A. Wein

Roster of the Hadassah Members of Beckley in 1948-1949

As an additional indication of the trend of the settlement of Jewish families towards and away from Beckley (other small or

middle-sized Jewish communities would show the same trend, undoubtedly), the roster of the 62 members whom the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah had in the year 1948-1949, at its formation or shortly thereafter, and at the crest of its enthusiasm and membership, should prove to be of importance and of interest. The 1954 roster of members shows some members who came into the community from 1949 on. The 1948-1949 roster shows that a large number of Hadassah members (i.e., Jewish families) have left Beckley and the surrounding area since that time (from 1949 to 1955), to settle in other cities, or to return to their original places of residence in which they lived before they came to Beckley to seek a livelihood or to join relatives who had settled previously in the Beckley area.

In addition, several members who were then affiliated with the Hadassah are now (in June, 1955) no longer members of Hadassah in Beckley, although they still live in Beckley, having resigned or withdrawn from the organization for a number of reasons, financial or otherwise.

(In the list given below, of members in 1948-1949, those marked with the symbol * have terminated their affiliation with the Beckley Hadassah, although they still reside in the Beckley community.)

(Those marked with the symbol † are no longer living in the Beckley community or area.)

†Mrs. Harry Abel (Mount Hope)	*Mrs. Edward M. Kandell
Mrs. David Abrams	†Mrs. Daniel Keiserman
Mrs. Sam Abrams	†Mrs. Joseph Keiserman
†Mrs. Mervin Ameles	Mrs. William Klein
*Mrs. J. Leonard Baer	Mrs. Charles H. Levine
*Mrs. Dorothy Berman	†Mrs. Robert H. Levine
Mrs. Jack Binderman	*Mrs. Benjamin Lewis (Mount Hope)
Mrs. William Binderman	*Mrs. Benjamin E. Lewis
*Mrs. Hugo Bornheim (Oak Hill)	*Mrs. Alfred Lovitz, Sr.
*Mrs. Alfred E. Cohen	(Mount Hope)
†Mrs. Herbert E. Cohen	*Mrs. Alfred Lovitz, Jr.
†Mrs. Theodore S. Decker	Mrs. Nathan Matz
*Mrs. Archie Ellenbogen	†Mrs. Max Meltcher
†Mrs. Mayme Favish	†Mrs. Samuel M. Milstein
†Mrs. Israel Fink	Mrs. James Pickus
Mrs. Louis J. Fink	Mrs. Louis Pickus
*Mrs. Sidney Fink	(deceased)
*Mrs. Marc L. Front	Mrs. Nathan Pickus
†Mrs. Abraham Goldstein	*Mrs. Eric Rosenbaum
*Mrs. Irving Goldstein	*Mrs. Theodore Rosenbaum
*Mrs. M. Edward Harvit	*Mrs. Abe Saks
†Mrs. Joseph B. Heller	†Mrs. Bernard L. Saks
Mrs. Morris Hochman	*Mrs. Herman Samans
Mrs. Samuel Hochman	Mrs. Edward Saymen
Mrs. Edwin Kamen (deceased)	†Mrs. Albert Schwartz
†Mrs. Jerry Kamen	

Dr. H. Viola Shlickerman
Mrs. Jacob Silverberg
*Mrs. Bernard E. Silverman
*Mrs. Harold A. Sopher
†Mrs. Thomas Sopher
Mrs. Charles Stromberg
†Mrs. Harry Stromberg

†Mrs. Sidney Stromberg
†Mrs. Harry Wasserkrug
Mrs. Isadore R. Wein
†Mrs. Morri R. Wein
*Mrs. Ben H. Wender
*Mrs. Max H. Wender

An analysis of the above 62 names shows that since the peak year of Hadassah membership, in 1948-1949, of the total number of 62 members whom Hadassah had then:

2 members are now deceased;

25 members have given up their affiliation with the Beckley Hadassah, although they still reside in Beckley or in the Beckley area;

17 members have moved away from Beckley and its vicinity;

18 women are still members of Hadassah (in June, 1955);

In addition, 6 new members are now on the Hadassah roster as of June, 1955.

The annual dues for Hadassah membership is \$4.00, part of which is sent to the Hadassah Regional Organization, and part to the national headquarters of Hadassah, in New York City. Hadassah in Beckley raises its funds, annually, from gifts from individuals; from donor teas and luncheons, held either in the Temple or in the homes of individual members; from rummage sales and bakery sales (both of the latter projects usually in co-operation with the Beckley Sisterhood); and from luncheon-or dinner-card parties, held either at the Temple or in private homes.

Once or twice a year, at regular meetings, the Beckley Chapter of Hadassah invites state, regional, or national speakers of Hadassah to attend its meetings and to speak at them; several times a year, local deputations from the Beckley Hadassah attend Hadassah meetings held in the nearby cities of Charleston and Huntington, W. Va., especially regional meetings; there are substantial-sized Hadassah chapters in these two large cities of West Virginia.

Hadassah in Beckley supports also the Trees for Israel fund, through individual or group donations on occasions of sadness or of joy in the community; and the Jewish National Fund (the Keren Kayemeth Leyisrael), through donations placed in the individual blue boxes sponsored by Hadassah. Also, in 1954 to 1956, the Beckley Hadassah, through a committee headed by Mrs. Manya S. Binderman, raised a separate fund for the erection of the new Hadassah-Rothschild-Hebrew University Hospital Building, at Jerusalem. In all these ways Hadassah seeks to serve and to foster humanitarian, charitable, health, and public welfare work and activities in the new State of Israel, on a fully non-sectarian and inter-denominational basis.



